

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE THE COMMON CAUSE OF HUMANITY.

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(NUMBER OF SOCIETIES IN THE UNION 476).

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Notes and Comments.

A Sensational Week.

The Albert Hall Demonstration, a National Union Council, and a crop of by-elections, has been our record for the last week. It is to be hoped that this "will not occur again"! The by-elections will, most of them, be mercifully short, but the work is tremendous while it lasts, and all who can are asked to help. They will see how to help, and where to help, in another column.

The Great Demonstration.

The Albert Hall Meeting was magnificent. A large space had been reserved for men, and it could have been filled again and again. The Hall itself was sold out, and every ticket returned was sold as fast as it came in. Up to half-past nine on Saturday night people were clamouring for tickets, and it was only when the meeting was nearly over that people abandoned the effort to get in! The sum raised amounts already to over £6,150, and promises are still coming. The collection in the Hall was £278 7s. A valuable collection of antique coins, a very beautiful old Japanese costume, a collection of stamps, and some jewelry were also given.

Suffragists and the Prime Minister.

Mr. Asquith refused to receive a deputation from this vast meeting. He is of opinion that he has already made his position sufficiently clear. He does not appear to realise that our supporters want to make *their* position clear to him! He received one deputation—that from the Trade Union Congress—and told them that he had fulfilled all his pledges to Mrs. Fawcett. Mr. Asquith asserted that his colleagues all agreed with him on this point. We hope, for the sake of their own honour, that they will make it clear that they do not. It is scandalous enough that the Prime Minister should make a statement so remote from the facts. He might have argued that he *could* not fulfil his promise; to argue that he *has* done so, is grotesque.

The Scottish Deputation.

Mr. Asquith was asked to receive a Scottish deputation also, representing trade organisations, public bodies, and political organisations, from all parts of Scotland, even the County Council of far off Shetland having appointed a delegate. He has refused—again on the ground that his views are well-known. The Federation of Northern Men met the same fate, being offered an interview with Mr. Asquith's private secretary, and permission to put their views in writing. It is not easy to bring evidence of the strength of feeling in the country before a man who persistently refuses to hear it, but the Prime Minister of a country supposed to be democratically governed, must surely find this business of refusing to see those to whom, after all, he is finally responsible, a little awkward.

In the House of Commons and Outside.

The extent to which the House of Commons sometimes fails to reflect the feeling outside is glaringly evident this week. Whatever one may think about the Suffrage question, it is impossible to ignore the fact that everyone is thinking about it. Even now, when no Bill is before the country, and no political action seems possible; when at least one other tremendous problem—that of Irish Government—is trembling in the balance; when many and grave problems of industrialism clamor for consideration, it is still possible for Suffragists to claim, and to prove, that they can secure attention, and fill the greatest hall in the country, and raise the largest sums of money, of any agitation now in progress. Yet Parliament reflects nothing of all this! You would not know if you read the King's Speech that there was a "Woman's Question." Indeed, Mr. Asquith, in the last debate on the subject practically said that there was not!

Will Women Use the Vote?

News from America comes that the recently enfranchised women of Chicago are registering in thousands. Nearly 200,000 have already done so, and over 700 women are acting as election officials. A fact which will interest many English visitors to Chicago is that Hull House, the famous settlement of which Miss Jane Addams is Principal, is to be a polling-station, and Miss Addams herself is one of the election judges. One of the great objects of the newly enfranchised women has been to get the polling-stations out of "bad places" into better ones, and a distinct change for the better has been effected. Women voters will not go to "bad places" to vote, but neither will they abstain from voting. Hence the change.

The Vigilance Association and Women Police.

We hope the suggestion made by Sir Samuel Chisholm at a recent meeting of the Vigilance Association in Glasgow will be taken up. He urged the appointment of women police for the purposes of the Criminal Law Amendment Act and kindred legislation. Girls who are questioned on such subjects as these by male officers "are too frequently not only humbled and ashamed, but hardened and degraded." This is certainly true. It is also true that from lax administration laws passed with a great show of righteous indignation in the House of Commons run the risk of becoming a dead letter. The *Vigilance Record* republishes a letter from Mr. Arthur Lee to the *Portsmouth Evening News*, pointing out the "amazing leniency" shown by magistrates in the case of a woman convicted under the Criminal Law Amendment Act, which, unless explained by extenuating circumstances which did not appear and certainly required to appear, will make promoters of the Act feel that "its main purpose has been frustrated and almost ignored." Mr. Lee goes on to argue that if the law is to be administered in this way, there is grave risk of the traffic being merely transferred into the hands of women, whom public opinion will not allow to be flogged. This grave risk many reformers foresaw from the beginning. It is deplorable that women cannot get sane and sober legislative reform on the subject of morals, but must alternate between complete indifference and the kind of hysteria which forced the flogging clauses through the House of Commons.

Education and Sex Hygiene.

Dr. Helen Wilson, in her evidence given before the Royal Commission on Venereal Diseases this week, spoke of the education of the general public on matters of sex hygiene as one of the first importance. She did not advocate any teaching of a pathological kind in elementary schools, but commended a plan which is being tried in some schools in America, where instruction is given first to mothers, and afterwards to girls in the presence of their mothers.

The Failure of Compulsion.

Dr. Wilson strongly deprecated all attempt at compulsory treatment for disease, and did not think compulsory notification likely to be useful. We are glad to read her plea for a more humane attitude towards patients. The names "Lock Hospital" and "Magdalene Hospital" ought to be abolished, and patients should be treated with the same consideration and given equally good and skilled attendance with the other patients.

The Plumage Bill.

As we believed would be the case, opposition to the Plumage Bill is coming not from women but from men. Women are greatly to blame for the cruelty that comes from thoughtlessness, but we think there can be few who would actually oppose reform for the reason put forward by Mr. Bensusan, "that it would only divert the trade from England to France." If the trade is a cruel one, let us wash our hands of it, and let France look to herself. There is no more obstructive attitude possible than that of the person who will not move till the whole world moves in step. At the same meeting we can hardly believe that Dr. Chalmers Mitchell is correctly reported. He is made to say that "much was said about the cruelty of killing birds during the breeding season, and leaving the young ones to die, but he was inclined to think such young birds did not suffer." This seems a really incredible form of argument, and we hope Dr. Mitchell will contradict it.

Signs of the Times.

A remarkable sign of the times appears in the *Wallasey News*, a paper which always gives a considerable amount of space to news of interest to women. Under the heading "The Ladies' Column," the first item is concerned with the dismissal of the pitbrow women at Charlston Colliery, and the second with the question of teaching children the facts of life. Others are on women's employment, the Children's Act, the Criminal Law Amendment Committee, the admission of women to the legal profession, and so on. It is a remarkable list for a "Ladies' Column," and we congratulate the editor and his public. It is, perhaps, too much to hope that the ecclesiastical should keep pace with the secular press. The *Guardian* begins its "Church-woman" column with "Puddings for all Seasons," which seems a sufficiently curious subject to be put first in order as the one most likely to interest women reading a Church paper.

In Parliament.

Thursday, February 12th.

REGISTRATION OF NURSES.

DR. CHAPPLE (Stirlingshire, Lib.) asked the Secretary for the Home Department whether his attention had been called to instances of the abuse of nurses' uniforms during the past few months; and whether he would give his support to a Bill for the State Registration of Nurses in order to meet this and other evils that were leading to the security of nurses in the ranks of the profession.

MR. McKENNA (Monmouth, N.).—During the past few months my attention has not been called to any case of the kind. The police will make inquiry, but so far as they are aware such cases are of very rare occurrence. Recent Bills on the subject of the registration of nurses have not touched on this matter, and there would be serious difficulties in framing any provision of the nature suggested. I cannot make any promise with regard to a Bill.

Friday, February 13th.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS.

Among the private Members' Bills presented on Friday, February 13th, the following are of special interest to women:—

Bill to provide for the better application and enforcement of the Housing of the Working Classes Acts, and to amend the Small Dwellings Acquisition Act, 1899.

Bill to amend the provisions of the Education (Administrative Provisions) Act, 1907, and the Education (Provision of Meals) Act, 1906.

Bill to amend the law in respect of the employment of children.

Bill to regulate the use of underground workrooms.

Monday, February 16th.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS.

Bills to consolidate and amend various enactments relating to offences against the person, to the protection of women and girls, to prostitution, and to brothels and other premises; to amend the law relating to the extradition of criminals and to vagrancy; and otherwise to make further and better provision with respect to offences against morality; and for purposes connected with the matters aforesaid; and to make further and better provision with respect to illegitimacy and maternity.

TREATMENT OF SUFFRAGIST PRISONERS.

MR. CHANCELLOR (Haggerston, Lib.) asked the Home Secretary whether any and, if any, what principle was applied to the differential treatment of Suffragist prisoners, several of whom had been released within a few days of being sentenced to long terms of imprisonment, whilst Miss Rachel Peace was forcibly fed in November, December, and January, and was still undergoing sentence.

MR. McKENNA.—Since the passing of the Prisoners (Temporary Discharge for Ill-health) Act the general rule has been to release those prisoners who have refused food to the point of endangering their health if the offences were of a minor character or if they were not likely to repeat their offences while at large; but I have not released under the Act persons guilty of arson or other serious outrages and whose fixed determination to repeat such crimes rendered them a danger to the community. It is true that in one case where a prisoner was able to reject all the food given her, and in another case which was complicated by appendicitis, I have found it necessary to use the Act in the case even of determined criminals; but there was no such exceptional necessity in Rachel Peace's case. She had been guilty of arson and her demeanour before the justices and at her trial showed that she was prepared to repeat her offence. If she will promise not to commit further crimes, I should be glad to advise the remission of her sentence.

MR. CHANCELLOR asked why Miss Peace was forcibly fed on remand before trial, and whilst, therefore, presumed to be innocent in the eye of the law.

MR. McKENNA.—The justices had refused to admit this prisoner to bail as they had reason to believe that if at liberty she would commit offences similar to that with which she was charged.

LORD R. CECIL (Hitchin, U.).—May the House feel quite sure that there has been no differential treatment of any of these prisoners arising from social position or anything of that kind?

MR. McKENNA.—Yes; most certainly.

SALARIES OF TEACHERS.

MR. E. JONES (Merthyr Tydvil, Lab.) asked the President of the Board of Education whether he was aware that, of the adult teachers employed in schools under his department, there are 858 paid under £25 as full salary for full-time employment for a whole year, 4,872 less than £35 a year, and 10,434 less than £45 a year; and whether he will approach the Board of Trade to have a Wages Board set up to deal with these sweated labour conditions, or will endeavour to have these teachers, who are expected to keep up a certain

standard of dress and appearance, included in the proposed minimum wage proposals for rural labourers.

MR. PEASE replied that the figures quoted seemed to relate to the salaries of women supplementary teachers, the number of whom had declined from 15,732 to 13,473. He was not prepared to take the action suggested in the second part of the question, but hoped that the legislation which he proposed would be to improve the remuneration of the teaching profession.

Tuesday, February 17th.

In the debate on an amendment to the King's Speech urging "the restoration of credit and security of land and house property, Mr. Macpherson said: "The real reason for this campaign is—"

SIR F. BANBURY.—"Votes!"

Our Case Against the Government.

II.

Last week we explained why we hold the Liberal Party and the Liberal Government, responsible for the failure to pass a Women's Suffrage Bill through the House of Commons since the Liberals came into power. We brought the record of our case against the Government up to the end of January, 1913, when Mr. Asquith found himself unable to fulfil the promises he had made owing to the Speaker's ruling that the Government Franchise Bill, as drafted, did not admit of Amendments to include women. As we pointed out, this ruling of the Speaker would not have been fatal to our chances of enfranchisement in this Parliament had not the Government postponed the Committee stage of the Bill till so late in the Session that there was no time to re-introduce it in a form which the Speaker would have accepted.

The Government felt that under the circumstances it would not be honourable to proceed with their Bill, minus the Women's Suffrage Amendments, or to substitute Mr. Harold Baker's Plural Voting Bill, which had passed its second reading earlier in the Session. To do so would have been to save from the shipwrecked Franchise Bill (shipwrecked through their own mismanagement) just that part which most closely affected Liberal party interests, whilst leaving their promises to the women still unfulfilled.

But this course, rightly felt in January to be discreditable, was precisely the course which the Government adopted three months later. They introduced a Government Bill to abolish Plural Voting, with all the safeguards which a Government measure enjoys, and with the sure prospect of being able to pass it into law under the Parliament Act, despite the opposition of the Lords, if they remained in office for the necessary two years. To the women they offered only "facilities for a private Member's Bill"—facilities which would have been invaluable two years earlier for the Conciliation Bill, but which were useless now that all chance of passing a Private Members' Bill had been destroyed owing to the policy pursued by the Government and their supporters, as we explained last week.

Mr. Asquith had himself admitted, in his speech in the House of Commons on January 27th, that such a proposal would be dishonourable. He has never vouchsafed any explanation why what was dishonourable in January was no longer dishonourable in May. Suffragists had from the first seen that the new Bill was foredoomed to failure, and had refused to work for it. But the Liberal Party, not satisfied that its defeat was sufficiently certain, took further steps to damage its chances. The Bill was drafted by a group of Liberal members, without consulting the Conservative Suffragists in the House, and in terms known to be unacceptable to them, although, being a private Members' Bill, it could have no chance of passing even a first time without the support of Suffragists of all parties.

The Government made a parade of scrupulous fairness in arranging to take the Second Reading of the Dickinson Bill (as the new Women's Suffrage Bill was called) in the same week as the Second Reading of their own Plural Voting Bill, professing that the two Bills would then have an equal chance of becoming law under the Parliament Act. As it was quite certain that the Dickinson Bill, even if it passed, could not obtain the benefit of the Parliament Act without Government support, this solemn pretence deceived no one.

A further effort was made, to give an appearance of fairness and impartiality, by the announcement that only one member of the Government would speak on each side in the Second Reading debate, Sir Edward Grey supporting, and Mr. Asquith opposing. This arrangement was calculated to give the entirely false impression that the Government were equally divided on the question, whereas the large majority, and all

the most influential Ministers, with the exception of Mr. Asquith himself—were in favour of Women's Suffrage.

Mr. Churchill subsequently voted against the Bill, but his last public statement of his position on Women's Suffrage had been his famous: "Trust me, ladies, I am your friend, and I will be your friend in the Cabinet."

This arrangement was a breach of the Prime Minister's pledge that Ministers should be free to act in accordance with their personal convictions on the Suffrage question, and was yet another proof of the worthlessness of the new promise. As the National Union pointed out, in a leaflet issued at the time, Mr. Asquith had offered the Suffragists a shilling in the pound in discharge of his debt; and the conditions under which the Dickinson Bill was introduced and defeated showed that the shilling was not even a good one.

That is how the situation stands to-day. The Liberal party has in turn prevented the passage of an "equal terms" Bill, of a Conciliation Bill (a compromise agreed to by Conservatives to meet Liberal objections to equal terms for women on the present franchise basis), and of a Women's Suffrage Amendment to a Government Reform Bill. The Government promised facilities for the Conciliation Bill, and then "torpedoed" it. They promised that the Franchise Bill should be drafted to admit of Women's Suffrage Amendments, but they did not succeed in so drafting it. They promised that such Amendments should have the benefit of a "free vote" of the House of Commons, and Anti-Suffragist members of the Cabinet were then allowed to make such a vote an impossibility. They promised that Suffragist Ministers should be allowed to act in accordance with their personal convictions on this question, and then they made an arrangement which weighted the scales heavily against the Suffragist Ministers in the debate on the Dickinson Bill. They promised Government protection and support in all its future stages for a Women's Suffrage Amendment to the Franchise Bill after it had once secured a majority in the House of Commons; but when the Bill on which this promise depended fell to the ground, they went back on that promise, and offered us instead merely "facilities for a Private Members' Bill."

In face of these facts, when a deputation from the Parliamentary Committee of the Trade Union Congress waited on Mr. Asquith last week to protest against his failure to redeem his repeated promises to women, Mr. Asquith replied:—"All those pledges have been literally carried out."

The series of events reviewed in these two articles, and Mr. Asquith's statement to the Trade Union Congress deputation, should be brought forward on every Suffrage platform in the country; the electors must be asked whether they are satisfied with a Prime Minister who has such peculiar views as to what constitutes the keeping of a promise.

MR. ASQUITH'S DEMAND FOR EVIDENCE.

Speaking in the debate on the Second Reading of the Dickinson Bill, on May 6th, 1913, Mr. Asquith said that Suffragists had "no producible evidence of the authority and declaration of the electorate" in support of their demand.

During the summer and autumn a large number of resolutions in support of Women's Suffrage were passed by men's organisations of all kinds throughout the country.

When Mr. Asquith visited Leeds in November, a deputation of West Riding working men belonging to different Trade Unions asked for an interview with Mr. Asquith in order to lay

before him evidence of the electors' demand for Women's Suffrage in that part of the country. The request was refused.

When Mr. Asquith visited Manchester in December, a similar request was made by the Manchester and Salford Trades and Labour Council, and other bodies of organised labour in Manchester (representing over 40,000 electors). The request was refused.

The National Union decided that its meeting in the Albert Hall on February 14th should take the form of a great national demonstration of the support which our cause obtains from men, and especially from the organisations of working men. Over 1,000 men attended as demonstrators from all parts of the country, representing 342 organisations, and hundreds of thousands of electors. Mrs. Fawcett wrote to Mr. Asquith asking him to receive a deputation of delegates from the meeting.

The request was refused.

The Scottish Federation of Women's Suffrage Societies then asked Mr. Asquith if he would receive a representative deputation of men from Scotland. No fewer than fifty-nine public bodies of men's organisations were prepared to send delegates, including the Town Councils of Inverness and Glasgow (the latter to be represented by the Lord Provost and the Chief Magistrate); the Trades and Labour Councils of Glasgow, Dundee, Aberdeen, Paisley, Perth, and others; at least twenty Trade Union branches, including the miners and railwaymen; the Parliamentary Committee of the Trade Union Congress; the Labour Party branches of Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Dundee; thirteen branches of the Independent Labour Party; six Men's Liberal Associations; and the National Council of Young Scots. Their request to be received by Mr. Asquith was refused.

Dr. Elsie Inglis, Hon. Secy. of the Scottish Federation, wrote again on behalf of the deputation, urging that its object was not to elicit the views of the Prime Minister, which were, as he had pointed out, well known; but to lay before him—"the very evidences of popular support which you asked for in August, when you received a deputation from the National Union. It seemed to the Committee impossible that you should ask for the evidence, and yet refuse to receive it. . . . They cannot believe that you would intentionally offer such an affront as a refusal to meet a deputation comprised of *bona fide* representatives of Labour, Political, and Representative bodies of male electors would imply."

The only answer was a repetition of Mr. Asquith's refusal to receive the deputation, though he said he would "give careful consideration to any further evidence or views which Dr. Inglis might wish to put before him in writing."

Thus Mr. Asquith not only refuses to admit women's claim to be allowed to speak for themselves when the "will of the people" is consulted; he refuses even to listen to the men who would speak for them. Yet he "has still to be convinced" that there is any neglect of the women's point of view in politics!

"THE INTEGRITY OF STATESMEN."

One of the Trade Union delegates to the Albert Hall Meeting wrote as follows, before the decision of Mr. Asquith not to receive a deputation was made known:—

"I see that a deputation from the Trade Union Congress has met Mr. H. H. Asquith, and he states that all his pledges have been carried out. Now, anyone who has followed this movement at all knows that this is false, and I hope that the deputation elected at Saturday's meeting will be a strong one and composed of men who will not be afraid to inform him that it is not only the opinion of the people, but he himself must know that by adopting such methods, he has lowered the integrity of statesmen to a byword, and if the women had been entitled to vote, he would not have dared to have slighted them in this manner."

THE NATIONAL UNION

Is the great Non-Party, Non-Militant, Women's Suffrage Society. If you approve of our methods and objects, please fill in the accompanying Form and send it to the Secretary.

I approve of the objects and methods of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, and desire to be enrolled as a member of the affiliated Society in my district, and to receive their organ "The Common Cause."

I herewith enclose ☐ cheque ☐ postal order for £ s. d., the amount of my annual subscription. Plus 6s. 6d., one year's subscription to "The Common Cause."

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THE ALBERT HALL DEMONSTRATION.

"The Best Yet."

The feeling in all our minds last Saturday evening was that the Albert Hall meeting broke all records. It was not only that the Hall was full—it has been full before—or that the speeches were on a high level; it was the extraordinary sense of a great spiritual force through it all that belonged as much to the audience as to the speakers, and made the meeting *one* in a sense that is rare, and inspiring beyond the inspiration of speaking or speakers alone.

It may seem strange to those who have read the accounts of the meeting elsewhere, and know that one speaker was interrupted by an almost continuous shouting and uproar throughout his speech, that the impression left was one of extraordinary unity. But so it was. Perhaps an account of what actually happened will best convey the impression of that unity.

Mrs. Fawcett and the speakers entered at the far end of the Hall from the platform and walked right through the great audience to their seats. Mrs. Fawcett's appearance was the signal for all to rise, and she went up the hall amid a continuous roar of applause, which died away as she took her seat and burst out again when she rose to address the meeting. Her speech was very distinctly heard, and was listened to with intense eagerness, punctuated with applause. Her allusion to the fact that we had hitherto "appealed to women and women's organisations, but were now appealing as well to men and men's organisations," met with a great reception, and there was equal enthusiasm when she moved the first resolution of the evening from the chair.

Mr. Barton was a very welcome figure on a Suffrage platform, and he made his first hit when he complimented the organisers of the meeting on their "astuteness" in getting a supporter of Mr. Asquith's to second a resolution protesting against Mr. Asquith's conduct! Mr. Barton began very quietly, but warmed to his work, and seemed to enjoy the friendly interruptions which broke in on his argument now and then. When he sat down and the resolution was put, there seemed to be hardly an "abstainer" in the Hall, and there was certainly no dissentient!

Mrs. Creighton's speech reached at once and kept throughout a noble level of thought and utterance. She is not (yet!) a familiar figure on a purely Suffrage platform, but to her speech as much as to any made that evening was due the feeling of spiritual earnestness which is the true inspiration of the Woman's Movement. One of the finest moments in a singularly impressive demonstration came near the close of her speech when she appealed for only the noblest weapons to be used in so noble a battle as ours. A great burst of applause was her answer, and her words will be remembered when the scene which followed has been forgotten.

Mr. Henderson came next. He had hardly risen from his seat when shouts and roars burst out from a group of men and women sitting behind him, high up in the orchestra. Mr. Henderson waited for a moment, then began, and then again waited. Evidently he hoped the shouters would get tired first. They did not, and when it became evident that they would not, the Labour Member simply set to work, pitched his voice at its loudest, and gave us his speech, unshortened, clear, to the point, without losing the thread or taking the slightest notice of the riot. How many people heard him, one cannot know; but there was not a person in the hall who did not know that they were witnessing one of the pluckiest things they ever saw. When Mr. Henderson stopped to draw breath, we clapped and shouted our admiration; and when—without once losing his head or his nerve or his temper—he finished his speech and sat down, the whole audience rose at him. We clapped and shouted and waved, and when the organ began, "For he's a jolly good fellow," we sang at the tops of our voices. Mr. Henderson must have seen, as we all saw, that that huge audience was with him heart and soul, and the interruptors, though they had made such a noise, seemed conspicuous only by their insignificance.

The music that followed—a song by Miss Alice Millest—was a happy inspiration, especially as we were all considerably excited! The collection, splendid as were the results, was dull, as collections are apt to be. People are getting accustomed to seeing huge sums raised by Suffragists, and contented themselves with an occasional cheer when some well-known name or large sum was announced.

Speeches are often good for a few or appropriate for some, but Miss Royden's was quite uncommonly apt for all. One heard, during the bursts of applause which punctuated her

speech, hearty cries from men, "That's it! You've got it! True!" and from women, "Oh, it's right!" It must be good for her to feel that in uttering what was noble and witty and true in her own mind she was striking notes which thrilled response from so many other minds and hearts of men and women. Her banter of Members of Parliament who solemnly debate whether a woman shall or shall not be a person "within the meaning of the Act"; her plea for the humanity of woman; her clear and just apprehension that though women are not a class, men have made them so; her generous understanding of the idealism which underlies the Labour movement and her pitying reference to the "sharp eyes and short sight" of those Suffragists who are more alive to the human faults of Labour than to its aspiring and heroic idealism, were expressed in language informed, it is true, with passion, but with so clean a passion that only left thought the clearer for it. The printed word is always so different from the spoken word, yet one cannot but regret that those who were not present to hear this fine plea will get only such very inadequate reports of it as have appeared in the papers. It is a queer adjustment of relative values which fills these papers with the Rugby match, and records that "Miss Royden also spoke"; that shows us the Prime Minister present at the match on the very day on which this great meeting censured him for refusing to receive the evidence it had to offer of the demand whose widespread existence he denies.

Mr. Fenner Brockway had a hard task in speaking last, but he held the meeting, and his speech was one to be remembered. He looked very young, and reminded us (though not in words!) that the spirit of youth is ours and the hope that belongs to it. "Good old Labour Leader," was the shout when he finished. The great Hall emptied more rapidly than one would have thought possible, and in a few minutes we were all out and on our way home.

Our Men Supporters.

An enormous number of men must have been represented on the platform, judging by the list of organisations on the programme; and even so, the list was not complete, as names of delegates kept coming in up to the last moment. The programme is in itself a splendid piece of "propaganda," showing as it does such a huge list of supporters. Trades and Labour Councils and I. L. P.'s were strongly represented, and there was a specially large number of delegates from Unions of Engineers and Railwaymen. Among the individual men in the arena were:—

Mr. G. N. Barnes, M.P., Mr. Goldfinch Bate, Mr. Reginald Bray, the Rev. Dr. Bussell, Mr. Cecil Chapman, J.P., Mr. R. F. Cholmeley, Mr. Archibald Christie, the Rev. F. Lewis Donaldson, Mr. Tom Gallon, Professor Galdart, Professor C. H. Herford, Mr. Henry Holiday, Mr. Roy Horniman, Sir Victor Horsley, Mr. Herbert Jacobs, Mr. Knee, Sir Henry Lee, Mr. Sidney Low, Professor Margoliouth, Mr. John Masefield, Mr. Aylmer Maude, Mr. Mirtlees, Mr. Malcolm Mitchell, Mr. Felix Moscheles, Mr. H. W. Nevinston, Mr. E. D. Morel, Mr. John R. Raphael, the Rev. Canon Rawnsley, Mr. P. Rose Innes, K.C., J.P., Professor E. de Selincourt, the Rev. Hudson Shaw, Mr. Harold Spender, Mr. F. T. Swanwick, Mr. Fisher Unwin, and Mr. Lucien Wolf, a member of the N.U.

THE SPEECHES.

Enthusiastic Welcome to Mrs. Fawcett.

Mrs. Fawcett received an enthusiastic welcome on rising to explain the purpose of the meeting and to move the first resolution. After referring to the demonstration as unprecedented in the history of the women's movement, she said:—

"Formerly we have asked for and have received demonstrations of the support and sympathy of women and women's organisations. Now we have asked for and are receiving the demonstration of the support and sympathy of men and men's organisations. We have here with us to-night groups of professional men and men of business; they are attending in their individual and personal capacity. We have also with us many hundreds of men who are here not in a personal, but in a representative capacity—members of town and city councils sent by their councils to represent them; members of trade councils, and, above all, members of trade unions, deputed by their members to represent them at this great meeting. (Cheers.) This is a great political fact, for it represents an important political force. The presence of large numbers of trade unionists here this evening is a following up of the resolution adopted practically unanimously at the last Trade Union Congress, representing nearly 2,000,000 working men. We ask all the men who are here whether in a personal or representative capacity to lend us their aid; they will be listened to when we are not. They may be put off with false statements, as the trade unions were last Thursday, but all the same they can help us in a way in which we cannot help ourselves. They can use their votes in our support. We had hoped to send a deputation from this great meeting to the Prime Minister, to lay before him evidences we have lately

received of the rapidly growing support of our cause in the country. He refuses to receive that deputation. He has also, though he is a Scottish member, refused to receive a Scottish deputation headed by the Lord Provost and Chief Magistrate of Glasgow; and I from the chair move the following resolution, expressing our indignation that the Prime Minister should have refused to receive both these deputations:—

"That this meeting expresses profound indignation at the refusal of the Prime Minister to receive a deputation from the 562 men representing 342 organisations, and from the many hundreds of men in their individual capacity attending this meeting. Mr. Asquith has declared that he has yet to be convinced that there is a demand for Women's Suffrage in the country, and this meeting protests against his refusal to inform himself of the demand by hearing the views of these men who represent all shades of opinion in every part of the country."

Mr. Asquith Not Hopeless.

Mr. William Barton, Liberal M.P. for Oldham, stated, in seconding the resolution, that he was convinced that despite appearances the cause was making steady and certain headway. It had become a real and live issue in practical politics. He continued:—

"The resolution deals with Mr. Asquith. Your organisers are exceedingly astute. I am quite sure that it was not without purpose that they chose a supporter of Mr. Asquith to second this resolution. I have been re-reading Mr. Asquith's speeches on this question, and I cannot find it possible to regard him as by any means a hopeless case. I do not believe there is a man living with a brain who is hopeless for this cause. There is a way to impress Mr. Asquith, and all politicians are alike. This meeting will greatly serve the women's cause if every man here goes back home determined that he will impress the politicians in the only way that politicians as such can be impressed—by the use of his vote. In the next general election this must be the first issue to be dealt with, and not the last." (Cheers.)

Underlying Principles of the Women's Movement.

Mrs. Creighton spoke of the great principles underlying the woman's movement. The demand for the vote was due to the knowledge that the vote was the symbol of full citizenship, and this was what women so earnestly desired. There had been in the past a demand for rights; there was now far more a demand for duties. Women wanted freedom to serve, and to serve without restrictions on their natural powers. Florence Nightingale was an example of what a woman could do for the world in the most womanly way; and yet she was opposed and criticised by people who thought she was going outside the "woman's sphere," in leaving her home and volunteering for service in the Crimea. Perhaps it might be said there could not be many Florence Nightingales. (A Voice: "Why not?") Well, whether there be many or few, they wanted to have freedom to bring all their powers to the service of the State. Where women had been given the vote it had been shown that it was for service that they ask and use it. Splendid evidence came from America to show that the forces making for civic righteousness and good government were enormously strengthened by the women's vote. Women were insistent on a high standard of character in those men for whom they voted, and no candidate of bad character had a chance of election.

Wider Responsibility Increases Devotion at Home.

At the same time, women had not lost their interest in and devotion to their homes. On the contrary, that interest had increased and quickened with wider responsibility. Far more homes were ruined by love of pleasure than by interest in politics, and the political responsibilities of women had deepened their sense of duty, and thus improved rather than destroyed home life. Opposition to Women's Suffrage had been found to come, not from the best but from the worst elements in the State—from the saloon-keepers, and gamblers, from organised vice, and from the idle rich. When our opponents realised this they would surely not wish to work hand in hand with such as these.

Battle of the Spirit Against the Forces of Evil.

The whole movement, Mrs. Creighton continued, was one from the lower to the higher plane. It was part of the great struggle that had been going on throughout the ages between the forces of brutality and the forces of the spirit, in human nature. The women's movement was winning the world from the dominion of physical force, and bringing about the reign of the spirit. In such a battle we should all be desirous above all to fight with worthy weapons. Only the best and worthiest were fit to be used in this great battle of the spirit against the forces of evil, and let women see to it that only such were employed. Then it might still be possible that the franchise would be granted, not after a further prolonged and bitter struggle, but as the glad gift of those who desire our contribution to the common service. It was her hope, Mrs. Creighton said in conclusion, that it might indeed be in this way that the freedom of women was won.

Need for a Government Measure.

Mr. Arthur Henderson, M.P. for Barnard Castle, in moving a resolution demanding a Government measure, reviewed the leading facts of the history of Women's Suffrage in Parliament, and showed conclusively the futility of trusting to a private member's Bill. The resolution, he said, was a brief, plain, straightforward, and definite request. The question arose whether they were justified in making such a demand on the Government. His reply was an emphatic "Yes." They were justified, first of all, because of the promise made by Mr. Asquith; they were justified also because of the expectations which the Government had created. He had not lost sight of the accident due to the ruling of the Speaker, but he wished to say emphatically to that meeting, as he had said on the floor of the House of Commons at the time, that no ruling on the part of the Speaker discharged the debt that the Government had incurred. Neither of the divisions on women's suffrage taken in the House of Commons was taken in the circumstances that gave the question the fair play to which it was entitled. Had women's enfranchisement been in the same position as Home Rule the Government would never have been able to get out of their pledge.

The Rt. Hon. the Earl of Lytton, who was to have seconded the resolution, was unable to attend the meeting, owing to the illness of one of his children.

A Great Human Movement.

Miss A. Maude Royden described the women's movement as a great human movement towards democracy. The claim of women to be regarded as human beings first and as women afterwards was the claim which aroused the most furious indignation in the heart of the true Anti-suffragist. (The gist of Miss Royden's speech is given in the article "Our Common Humanity," appearing on page 884.)

The Resolution was carried unanimously.

Mr. Smillie was unavoidably prevented from attending the meeting, but sent a letter of regret and good wishes.

Mr. Fenner Brockway emphasised the need of men for the help of the women's point of view. It was impossible to imagine that women, the mothers of the race, would ever put property before life, or willingly allow the sacrifice of the latter in the interests of the former. Their point of view was not opposed to, but in some respects different from that of men, and we should never arrive at a truly humane State till both were represented.

SOME MESSAGES.

DEAR MRS. FAWCETT,—I hope to be with you at the Albert Hall Demonstration on the 14th inst. I want to come to London as soon as Parliament meets, in order to interview personally all my friends in the Ministry, as well as some few other M.P.'s, in the interests of our women's cause.

Surely, our long labours will even now secure the end we have in view. What a disgraceful fact it is that there should now be eight millions of male electors, and not one woman yet entitled to vote. When we began to work, there were only some 700,000 male electors. The disgrace lies, and will for ever lie, on those professed friends, especially those who are in either House, and more especially on those who are, or have been, in the Cabinet, for this long and shameful delay.

I formed the first Manchester Women's Suffrage Committee in October, 1866, when my friend, Miss Emily Davies, formed the first London Committee; and for forty-eight years we have continued asking for this act of justice, and still we are not free citizens of this professedly free country.—Affectionately yours,

E. C. WORSTENHOLME ELMV.

Heartly wishes for the success of your demand for a Government measure during the present Session.

MRS. HASLAM

(President, The Irishwomen's Suffrage and Local Government Association).

January 27th, 1914.

DEAR SIR,—Though I am prevented from being present at your meeting I wish to accord to you my whole hearted sympathies with its aims, so keen am I on the grant to Women that, though I have been a Liberal ever since I had a vote, I voted Unionist at the last election in order to mark my disapproval of the Government touching this subject.

May your gathering prove both successful and fertile.—I remain, Yours faithfully,

WALTER H. DIXON.

Letters of regret for absence were received from the Earl of Selborne, Earl Russell, Lord Aberconway, Lord Newton, Lord Courtney of Penwith, Lord Rayleigh, the Bishop of Oxford, the Bishop of Hertford, the Bishop of St. Asaphs, the Bishop of Birmingham, the Bishop of Liverpool, the Bishop of Kensington, the Bishop of Knaresborough, the Bishop of Southampton, the Dean of Limerick, Prof. Hartopp, Prof. Patrick Geddes, and many others.

STRESS OF MODERN EXISTENCE.

The unparalleled stress and strain of modern existence reduces tens and hundreds of thousands every year to the verge of breakdown. It was to combat this grievous physical and mental wear and tear, that a famous physician, a well-known Member of the Royal College of Surgeons (London), evolved the Formula which, under the name of Hall's Wine, has won such world-wide success. The remarkable endorsement Hall's Wine has received from the Medical Profession, as a restorative in all forms of overstrain, nerve weakness, and run-down conditions generally, places its value beyond the realm of question. Indeed, one medical man has stated that "It is impossible to take Hall's Wine without being benefitted," and another declares it to be "The most useful and dependable restorative we have."

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LT.-COL. WARNER, Farnborough.

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE N.U.W.S.S.

The annual report of the N.U.W.S.S., adopted at the Council meeting last week, records that the most remarkable feature in the Women's Suffrage Movement during the past twelve months has been, on the one hand, extraordinary progress in the country, and, on the other, a standstill in the House of Commons after many sessions of unusual activity. Many people even within the suffrage movement expected a decided set-back as the result of the fiasco of the Reform Bill in the House of Commons. But the records of the National Union show that the failure of the Government to fulfil its pledges has had exactly the opposite effect.

The immediate reply to Mr. Asquith's statement that there was no demand for Women's Suffrage in the country was the Pilgrimage, of which a full account appeared in these columns during its progress. No demonstration has made greater demands upon the devotion of Suffragists: and none has made such a profound impression upon the imagination of the public.

A large number of petitions for Women's Suffrage were sent up to Parliament from meetings held along the routes of the Pilgrimage, and the final proof of its success was shown by the changed attitude of Mr. Asquith, who consented to receive a deputation from the National Union to lay before him the evidence of public support for Women's Suffrage which the Pilgrimage had shown.

GROWTH OF THE UNION.

During the past year the number of Societies in the Union has increased from 411 to 478, and its membership from 42,438 to over 52,000; the figures sent in being not yet complete. If the number of Friends of Women's Suffrage is added, the supporters of the N.U. now total over 90,500.

EDUCATION CAMPAIGN.

Great interest has been aroused throughout the country by the Education Campaign organised by the National Union, on the connection between women's demand for the vote and their concern with all that affects children. A campaign on the "Disabilities of Wives and Mothers" is now in progress, while the disabilities of professional and industrial women, and the need of greater driving power behind the demand for moral reform will be dealt with later on.

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE COMMITTEES IN THE HOUSE.

Increased activity and improved organisation is shown in the various groups of Suffragist Members in the House of Commons. At the end of last Session there were four separate Women's Suffrage Committees in the House: a Joint Committee, and Committees representing the Liberal, Labour, and Unionist Parties respectively.

SUPPORT OF TRADE UNIONS.

One of the most significant events of the year was the passage of the following resolution by the Trade Union Congress held in September in Manchester:—

"That this Congress expresses its deep dissatisfaction with the Government's treatment of the franchise question, considering that the Plural Voting Bill is no substitute for the promised Reform Bill; and further, this Congress protests against the Prime Minister's failure to redeem his repeated pledges to women, and calls upon the Parliamentary Committee to press for the immediate enactment of a Government Reform Bill, which must include the enfranchisement of women."

Resolutions have also been passed by a large number of individual branches of forty-one different Trade Unions, and during the Miners' Conference held last October in Scarborough the Miners' Federation co-operated officially with the N.U. in a Women's Suffrage Demonstration, at which Mr. Robert Smillie, President of the Federation, stated: "I think the women will have all the power the Miners' Federation can bring to bear upon Parliament to bring this measure of justice."

THE NATIONAL UNION ELECTION POLICY.

The N.U.W.S.S. has put its Election Fighting policy into force in seven by-elections with very considerable effect. Although in no case has the Labour candidate been returned at the head of the poll, his coming into the field (in several cases for the first time) has made a serious difference to the poll of the Government candidate and in three cases has caused the loss of his seat. Thus, though as yet the N.U. has not succeeded in strengthening the position of the party which stands for Women's Suffrage in the House, it has greatly helped to strengthen it in the country. The net gain of votes has been 9,286; the net loss to the Government, 12,576.

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS and mention THE COMMON CAUSE when ordering goods.

At Crewe, Midlothian, and S. Lanark the result was to lose the seat to the Government, though in the case of the two last it was the first time a Labour man had fought at all.

Work on "E.F.F." lines is now being done in the constituencies of Anti-suffragist Ministers (Mr. Harold Baker, Mr. L. Harcourt, Mr. Hobhouse, Mr. McKenna, Mr. Pease, and Col. Seely). The N.U. is also working to support Labour members who have been among our best friends in the constituencies of Barnard Castle, Blackburn, N. Bradford, S.-E. Lancs., Ince, E. Leeds, E. Manchester, N.-E. Manchester, Stockport, and Whitehaven.

SOME IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS.

A development which should have considerable influence upon the selection of Liberal candidates is the formation of the Liberal Women's Suffrage Union, and the Liberal Men's Association for Women's Suffrage. Women's Suffrage has also made progress within the Conservative Party, a discussion on this subject taking place at the annual Conference of the National Conservative and Unionist Association at Norwich.

INTERNATIONAL ASPECT OF THE SUFFRAGE MOVEMENT.

Representatives were sent by the National Union to the International Women's Suffrage Congress, held in June at Budapest, while many members attended in an individual capacity. At this Conference twenty-eight countries were represented and some 2,000 Suffragists of all nationalities were present.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

In the financial report is found the final proof of the growth of the Women's Suffrage Movement due to the work of the N.U. throughout the country, £14,994 odd having been administered from Headquarters during the year ending October 31st, 1913, being an increase of £5,143 odd over the sum dealt with during 1912. In addition to this sum, funds amounting to over £25,000 have been administered by 329 Societies and sixteen Federations, which have sent in statements to Headquarters. Some hundred Societies have sent in no financial report, so it seems safe to calculate that over £45,000 have been used during the year by the N.U. Even more than this will be needed for the work of the coming year.

"THE COMMON CAUSE."

A special appeal is made, in the report, for help in increasing the circulation of THE COMMON CAUSE, on the ground that it is by far the most valuable instrument of propaganda which it is possible to provide. During the year a notable increase in its circulation has taken place. The Pilgrimage greatly stimulated the sale, and in the Autumn a month was devoted to a special COMMON CAUSE Campaign, which had an excellent effect in obtaining hundreds of new subscribers for the paper. The increase in the circulation is satisfactory, but there is still room for growth, and the Committee cannot believe that the Union will be satisfied until it has made its own paper a financial asset.

BETTER WAGES FOR WOMEN.

New Trade Boards Coming into Operation.

The first Trade Board meeting of the Sugar Confectionery and Food Preserving Industry will be held on March 4th at the Trade Board offices, Chancery-lane.

Women's interests are represented on the Board by Miss Mary McArthur, Miss Susan Lawrence, and Mrs. Reeves, of Norwich. Mr. C. W. Rowntree, M.P., in whose factory conditions of labour are greatly superior to those provided by the great bulk of large employers, is one of the representatives on the employers' side of the Board, and should have considerable influence for good.

It is hoped that a minimum wage will be decided upon which will ensure a decent life to some of the most oppressed women workers in the country.

On March 11th the shirt-making board hold their first meeting, the women's representatives including Miss Kate McKean, organising secretary of the women workers of Scotland; Mrs. Rowe, secretary of the federated branch in Woolwich; Mr. J. J. Mallon, secretary of the Anti-Sweating League; and Mr. A. Headon, secretary of the Shirt and Jacket Makers, Manchester.

Ajmairee: A Child Mother.

What rows and rows of "mud-pies" there used to be on the edge of the lawn in those days! Not only "mud-pies," but mud-figures of all sorts, and sizes, and shapes—fantastic animals and still more fantastic human beings. The scene comes before me as I write. The rows of mud-creations, which were made to-day, baked in the sun all to-morrow, and then exhibited on a tray by the proud possessors on the day following. And again I see the two little maidens, the authors of all these creations—the little English girl with her fair face and brown curls, shaded by a large sun-hat, and her companion the little brown-faced maiden, her face framed by the red border of her white sari.

Two children at play—just three years ago. Ajmairee, the little brown-faced maiden, used to be called in "to help" with the children whenever there was a stress of work, or many visitors in the house. Whenever the "Miss Sahib" and old Lalli (Ajmairee's mother) the ayah were more than usually busy, the plea would be preferred by the little maiden of the brown curls: "May Ajmairee come and play with me to-day?"

If I could only make you see her as she was in those days! Two pictures of her live constantly in my mind. One hot season, when the elder children, with the "Miss Sahib" and old Lalli had gone to the hills, Ajmairee came regularly every day to help in the care of the few months old baby. What a picture they made! The little fat English baby, lying on the bed kicking her pink toes in the air, and the sweet-faced, brown-skinned child kneeling at the bedside, crooning little Indian ditties. Ajmairee was very proud, very happy in those days. Then the hot weather came to an end, and the brown-haired maiden returned from the hills.

The days of "mud-pies" were resumed, the days of doll-dressing, and of hide-and-seek in the garden. Then the decree went out, Ajmairee was to be married! Her little playmate did all she could to prevent it. "They shall not marry my Ajmairee! She does not want to be married. She told me so."

But old Lalli was inexorable. "In your country," she said, with just a touch of scorn, "many women remain unmarried. In our country it is not so. Our women are all married."

Of course, Ajmairee enjoyed the actual wedding day. She liked the bright coloured garments, the jewellery they put on her, the feasting. Lalli had chosen a nice boy for her husband, a cousin of her own, and Ajmairee's mother-in-law was a quiet, kind woman. For months all went on again as usual—there was no break in the play of the two little maidens. Then Ajmairee went to her husband's house to live with her mother-in-law, and the little English child with the brown curls went the way all English children in India go, sooner or later—she went across "the black water" to the Homeland; to the land of school and games, and the companionship of other English children, and all the delights and joys of home life in the old country.

But Ajmairee? For some months I did not see her. Asking Lalli one day how she was, I got the answer that Ajmairee was "very cross."

"Cross!" I said, "why? What has happened to make her cross?"

"She is," said Lalli in her low even tones, "to have a child in a few months—in God's mercy. But she does not want it—she is very cross," and Lalli smiled, a lenient happy smile. Poor little Ajmairee! She had "not wanted" to be married; she did "not want" to be a mother. A few days later Ajmairee came to see me—at least Lalli said it was Ajmairee. I did not know her. The merry child was gone, and in her place stood a tall thin young woman, with a dark, still, sullen face. She had only two desires at this time of her life—to be allowed to sleep and to drink tea. The old mother-in-law insisted on the usual amount of water being drawn each day, on the corn being ground as usual—she would not let Ajmairee sleep. I made up my mind to interfere.

We went to see the mother-in-law. I told her gently (for she was really a kind old woman) that we had come to take Ajmairee for some weeks to her own mother's house. "But who will draw my water," said the old lady, "who will grind the corn?"

"Your son can do these things for you," I suggested.

"She started as if a snake had bitten her. 'They are not man's work,' she said in a low harsh tone.

"They must become so, for a few weeks," I said, "for Ajmairee is not going to do them."

So we bore her off in triumph. Blissful weeks followed for this child-wife. She slept day and night, as long as she liked, in her mother's house, rising only to prepare herself some tea, play a little with the children around her, and go off to sleep again.

One night her child was born. It was a long, weary time for the child-mother, and help had to be got from the hospital before the end. When it was all over, Ajmairee lifted her dark eyes to her mother. "I did not know," she said, "I did not know there was such *tukleef* (trouble) when a child was born."

The little son was very tiny, his hold on life was feeble from the first. How could it have been otherwise? But the grandmothers were delighted. Lalli fell at my feet the next morning. "I am content," she said. "The son of my last daughter has been in my arms. What more do I want? God's mercy is great."

The other old grandmother was equally "content." She sat all day with her son's son on her knees—what more did she want?

* Indians always speak of the sea as the "Kala Pana" (black water).

But Ajmairee? She sat in the corner of the house, sullen and still, and quiet as before. For months her one longing had been for tea, now she was hungry, desperately hungry, and the keen old grandmother would allow her nothing but *dullya* (porridge)! Ajmairee wanted *chapatties*—lots of them, and curry! She had not wanted to be married, she had not wanted to have a child, and now, why couldn't she have what she wanted to eat? Once more interference was necessary. "You must let her eat what she wants," the grandmother was told. "If the mother is not strong, how can the child be strong?"

One day the two grandmothers were sitting on the floor of the house, laughing and talking to the child of whom they were both so proud. Ajmairee stood aloof, indifferent and uninterested. I, too, knelt on the mud floor, and admired the child. (In the far past had I not had babies of my own?) Suddenly I became aware that Ajmairee had drawn near. I looked up—and hastily looked away again, for I had seen in Ajmairee's eyes that which she, in her childish shyness, was trying to hide from us. *The mother-instinct was awakening.* It was with joy and sorrow mingled, that I came away from the house. Joy that it was coming "right" with Ajmairee; sorrow, profound sorrow, that it should have been thought necessary to lay on such a childish heart the burden of motherhood. What had a child like that to do with the great facts of life? Her "creations" should have been still only mud-pies and dolls' dresses.

One night Ajmairee woke, and felt for the small bundle at her side. It was quite cold! *What did the child-mother know about death?* She took the tiny infant into her arms, and folded her blanket around it. It would soon get warm again! and holding it tight she fell asleep. A few hours later she awoke again—the baby was still cold. Ajmairee became frightened, and woke her mother-in-law.

The grandmothers were broken-hearted, but Ajmairee was sullen, and bewildered, and tearless. One day, going across the open courtyard where they lived, she stopped to speak to a friend of hers, who was dangleing a baby, and talking and laughing to him. Ajmairee stopped, then *something*, at the sight of that other girl with her baby, *something flamed up in her heart*—the great mother-instinct leaped irresistibly into life. Ajmairee turned, went back to her mother-in-law's house, sat down with her face to the wall, and wept.

She came to see me one day. She sat on the floor close to the chair where I was sitting. No words passed between us. I looked out across the stretch of brown earth to the range of low hills in the distance. "I to the hills will lift mine eyes; From whence doth come mine aid," they sing in Scotland. Something of comfort and aid came from these low hills in this far-off land.

"Never mind, Ajmairee, never mind. God will give you many more sons and daughters," I said. But there was no response from the bowed head on the folded hands. By-and-bye she got up and left the room. *I had not seen her face during the whole interview.*

I sprang to my feet. Something of the resentment which seemed to be dying out of Ajmairee's heart flared up in my own. I saw again the "mud-pies," the doll-dressing, the little *saris* with the red borders. What had happened? What madness was this, *to bring the wonderful, beautiful flower of motherhood to fruition before its time?* The burden of motherhood, with all its mystery of pain and joy, was never meant to be borne by a child's heart. Surely it was a burden only to be taken up *voluntarily*, by women full grown in mind and body. And yet—what an army of child-mothers we have all over the world! *For we have them in the West, too*, only there we add to the burden of motherhood the burden of shame also. When would it all end? Was there no hope?

Lying on the table was a white pamphlet, with blue lettering, *The Soul of Women's Suffrage*. And instantly, instead of the army of sorrowful children, there came a vision of the Women's Army! Women of every nation, and language, and creed. Women of all classes and all schools of thought, bound together by the great Oversoul—by the Spirit of God Himself. And the goal to which they are marching is the Freedom of Womanhood. March on! Oh! gallant army of women!

Already the dawn is breaking. The goal is in sight, and when it is won, you will have gained freedom, not for yourselves alone, but for the whole human race. "Is there no hope?" I had asked myself. Thank God! the air is alive with Hope, and Expectation, and Courage.

Ajmairee has just been to see me. She came in with something of her old brightness and happiness. She carried in her arms two of the quaintest mud-figures I had ever seen. "Would the memsahib take them to Wilayat (England) when she went? They were for A—Baba. Would the memsahib give them to her with Ajmairee's 'most loving salaams'?" For one half-second, I hesitated. Where were they to be packed? How was I to take them home? But one glance at the eager, sweet face, and all hesitation went flying to the winds.

"Certainly, most certainly, the memsahib will take them to Wilayat, and will give them to the Baba with Ajmairee's 'most loving salaams.'"

Ajmairee salaamed low, and went out, almost a child again, in her springing walk and her happy air. God, as old Lalli had once said He would, "is making her forget."

EVA SHAW McLAREN.

Some Books on Law.

Position of Women Under English Law.

THE ENGLISHWOMAN'S LEGAL GUIDE. By Wilfred Hooper, LL.D. (David Nutt. 2s. 6d.)

All women who are interested in acquiring specific and accurate information as to their legal capacity and status in public and private life, will welcome *The Englishwoman's Legal Guide*. Mr. Hooper, with admirable exactness and attention to detail, has taken his readers through the civil and criminal law relating to women, and at the same time has succeeded in rendering easy of grasp to the average intelligence the intricacies of such branches of the law as Real Property and Contract. The present law on these subjects is, as he states, dependent on the history of the Courts of Equity and Common Law, which worked more or less in conflict, if it may be so said; and the final position has been modified, and, to a considerable extent to the lay mind, confused, by the extent and method of the Statutory alterations which have from time to time been made. It is abundantly clear that the purpose of the book has justified the slight treatment accorded to the historical side of the subject.

With due respect to the author's intention that the book should be a guide and not a text-book, I would submit that the quotation of a few cases, illustrative of the points that he makes in connection with a woman's Real Property rights and limitations, would be of material assistance. (For example, the patchwork effect of the Married Women's Property Acts on the Common Law position is emphasised by the decision in *re Jupp*, where the Common Law maxim that husband and wife are one in law was held to overrule the Statutory instruction that the testator's intention should be the guiding principle in the interpretation of wills.) That part of the book which deals purely with a woman's civil rights and obligations appears, perhaps, disproportionately short, and its extension by concrete examples of the practical working of abstract principles and rules would, I venture to think, be welcome.

I cannot agree with Mr. Hooper's presentation of women in public life. He opens his chapter on the subject with a generalisation to the effect that women are disqualified from exercising any public function, and quotes as his authority Mr. Justice Willes in *Chorlton and Lings*. I believe the foundation for the wide belief that women are so generally disqualified is founded, and I submit ill-founded, on this dictum: what Mr. Willes said, in fact, was that women are disqualified from exercising *this* department of public function, and he said it in reference to women's right to vote, which was the only question *sub judice*. With all due respect to Lord Esher, it is submitted that he subsequently misquoted (*Beresford-Hope v. Sandhurst*) the intention and the words of Mr. Willes, and referred to the latter's judgment as expressing a general disqualification of women for public office. Again, and with due respect, it is submitted that Mr. Willes was similarly misquoted by the present Solicitor-General in the recent case of *Bebb v. The Law Society*. It is possible, but doubtful, that some other authority for the generalisation exists; and, if so, it follows that women are ineligible for recently created offices of the kind. Nevertheless, it is true that women do to-day hold public offices and perform public functions, in respect of which no specific Statutory qualification has been given.

Mr. Hooper's readers will appreciate readily that their position in Criminal Law is simpler and more easy of enunciation, and, as far as it goes, more complete in itself than the position at Civil Law is or can be. Criminal Law is the history of Statute only; Civil Law is, speaking generally, the history of Equity and Common Law modified by Statute. The first Statute of importance which affected the civil position of a woman *qua* woman was the Married Woman's Property Act, 1870, and was the expression of an effort to establish the principles of Equity on a legislative basis. Mr. Hooper's book shows clearly that the policy was carried out by means of hesitating and awkward legislation, and that Parliament did not recognise until too late the difficulties of interpreting these principles in Statutory form. The Legislature did not strike at the root of the evil, the absence of a married woman's legal entity, but removed the incidental disabilities one by one, leaving more and more anomalies as time went on. The necessity for the Married Woman's Property Act, 1874, was caused by an oversight in the Act of 1870, and the Act of 1893 was passed to complete a system which was intended to be established in 1882.

There can be no doubt that many women will be grateful for a book which will afford them the opportunity of insight into much that may appear absurd and unjust in their legal position; much that will be explained, if not excused, by the attitude of the country to women in bygone times, and by a knowledge of the way in which legislators of the last fifty years have attempted to deal with the position which they found.

G. M. BEBB.

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Women Under American Law.**THE LEGAL AND POLITICAL STATUS OF WOMEN IN THE UNITED STATES.**

By Jennie L. Wilson, L.L.B., Member of the Iowa and Michigan Bars.

It is interesting to trace the similarity and at the same time the differences in the development of the law, on the basis of the same Common Law, between England and the various American States. The great majority of States are in advance of England with respect to the age of legal marriage, few retaining the legal ages still in force in England, of fourteen for the man and twelve for the woman. The age for the woman is, as a rule, less than that for the man, and in one case at least, in Maryland, is as high as twenty-one for the man. In New York the legal age for marriage for both men and women is eighteen. The prohibited degrees in some States include first cousins and in one even second cousins are forbidden to marry. A further provision, applicable to the majority of States, declares it illegal for a white person to marry one who is of Negro, Mongolian, or Indian race.

With regard to property the married woman is, as a rule, in a better position than she is as yet in England, although not yet in every State has she been given the right even to hold property. In Texas a wife's earnings are still the property of her husband, and money which is her own and which she has deposited in a bank can be paid out to the husband at his request. If paid to her without her husband's consent, it can be demanded again by him from the bank. In many States there is a provision which makes it impossible for either a husband or a wife to give or sell land without the written consent of the other. Especially is this true with respect to the homestead, and special provisions give the surviving spouse the right to remain in the homestead till the youngest child is twenty-one. Taken all over, the inheritance laws are more in favour of the wife than in England. In many States it is not possible for the husband to disinherit his wife, and in the great majority, where there is no will, the woman has the same rights in her husband's property as he in hers.

Divorce, except in one State, Texas, is, in the main, equal between men and women. The grounds for the dissolution of marriage are wider than for the man in England, except in South Carolina, where there is no divorce, and in New York. They generally include besides desertion and infidelity, drunkenness, cruelty, and certain long terms of imprisonment. It is impossible to pick out all the interesting and suggestive differences between the United States and this country. It would certainly be worth finding out how the provision in force in several States, namely, that a married man cannot make any sale or assignment of his wages or salary without the consent of his wife works out in practice, or whether it remains a dead letter.†

In nine States and one Territory women have full equal Suffrage, but in all the others, except Illinois, the position of women with respect to local government franchises is much worse than it is throughout the United Kingdom.

Miss Wilson's book will be specially valuable and useful to the women of the States; but it will also be instructive to students of the twentieth century history of the progress of women.

CHRISTAL MACMILLAN.

FRENCH LAW AND CUSTOMS FOR THE ANGLO-SAXON. Arthur S. Browne. (Jordan. 2s. 6d.)

A useful little handbook for Britons residing in France. The chapters on Marriages in France, and the Effect of Marriage on Property should be studied carefully by anyone thinking of contracting a marriage in France, or marrying a French subject in this country. Under the head of Miscellaneous Information are some practical notes on travelling in France.

EVERYDAY LAW. J. J. Adams, Barrister-at-Law. (T. G. & E. C. Jack. 6d.)

Mr. Adams deals in a simple and lucid fashion with the laws concerning a number of matters likely to affect the lives of the ordinary man or woman. Among these are Births, Breach of Promise, Characters of Servants, Children, Contracts, Debt, Employers' Liabilities, Libel, Marriage, Nuisances, Partnership, Poor Law, and Wills.

SOME POINTS OF ENGLISH LAW AFFECTING WORKING WOMEN AS WIVES AND MOTHERS. Mrs. Swanwick. (Women's Co-operative Guild. 3d.)

This admirable little pamphlet is stocked at the N.U.

LAW AND ADMINISTRATION, IN REGARD TO THE SOCIAL EVIL. By H. M. Wilson, M.D. (Third edition. Price 1d.)

Dr. Helen Wilson's pamphlet, published by the British Branch of the International Abolitionist Society, has been brought up to date and re-printed. It contains a most valuable summary of the state of the law for the protection of women and girls, in various countries. All who are interested to know what has been done, and to consider what ought to be done, will find the pamphlet invaluable.

REGULATED VICE AND THE TRAFFIC IN WOMEN. By W. J. Payling Wright, B.A. Price 1d.

This little pamphlet shows the evils of (1) the Maison de Tolérance, (2) the Segregated Area. The opinions of a number of public men of high standing, and of many nationalities, are quoted in condemnation of the system of State Regulation, and the magnitude of the traffic in girls is clearly shown.

† It is by no means a dead letter, and has been a great protection to women in many cases.—Ed., C.C.

Correspondence.**LEGAL POSITION OF THE WIFE.**

MADAM,—Section 16 of the Matrimonial Causes Act, 1857 (commonly known as the Divorce Act), provides as follows: "A sentence of judicial separation (which shall have the effect of a divorce *à mensa et thoro* under the existing law and such other legal effect as herein mentioned) may be obtained either by the husband or the wife, on the ground of adultery or cruelty or desertion without cause for two years and upwards." Section 17 contains provisions for the granting of alimony in such cases, and Section 35 provisions for orders as to custody of the children.

In the face of this, Mr. Blease states: "... the most often and notorious adultery on his part, unless it is accompanied by cruelty or desertion, gives her nothing except an opportunity of showing that patience and readiness to forgive which men have long regarded as the chief of feminine virtues."

It is true that the above remedy can only be obtained in the Divorce Court, and therefore at considerable expense; but this is a grievance of the poor as against the well-to-do, and not a sex grievance.

"LEX."

[In reply to this criticism, Mr. Blease explains that the ambiguity of his statement was due to the necessity for compression. His meaning was that in actual practice a legal separation is, in the majority of cases, useless to the wife, as she is thrown upon her own resources, and finds it impossible to maintain herself and her children in decency. It must be remembered that the granting of an order for alimony does not necessarily mean that it is complied with.—Ed., C.C.]

CHILDREN AND THE FACTS OF LIFE.

MADAM,—To my mind, Miss Outram is to be heartily congratulated on the effort she has made to prepare her pupils for life. It is quite astonishing that at this time of day anyone should be found to object to such teaching. More than thirty years ago I decided to teach my then girl pupils facts connected with the phenomena of reproduction, as I felt very strongly that to be forewarned is to be forearmed. From first to last, no objection has been made to my lessons; indeed, both parents and pupils have thanked me for giving them! Sex and reproduction formed part of the instruction given to the youth in preparation for initiation into the mysteries of religion among the ancients, as also to-day among "uncivilised" peoples. With us, education being compulsory, every child can read for herself or himself and obtain information from printed matter, often very detailed, about "White Slavery," "Racial Poisons," "Effect of Alcohol on the Unborn and on Mothers' Milk," and such like.

In addition to all this information scattered broadcast, there are "Schools for Mothers," and lessons to elder girls on the "Care and Management of a Baby." In the face of all this, how utterly irrational it is to object to right teaching as to the source whence the baby is derived! To my mind, such teaching, wisely given, would help more towards the much-needed cleansing of the Augean stables of modern civilisation than any number of Royal Commissions and Acts of Parliament. *Honi soit qui mal y pense.* To the pure all things are pure; but true purity is the child, not of ignorance, but of the fullest knowledge. At any rate, educated Irishwomen realise this great truth, and put teaching concerning sex, to both boys and girls, as the first step in the ladder towards national purity.

BIOLOGIA.

THE INFANT DEATH-RATE.

MADAM,—In the *Daily Telegraph*, Miss Gladys Pott quotes figures to prove (1) that infant mortality rates fell more rapidly in New Zealand before Women's Suffrage was granted than afterwards; (2) that in some other countries the rate has dropped more than in New Zealand. Her figures do not always tally with the Report of the Registrar-General (1913, Cd. 6578). The figures given below in brackets are from the Blue-Book, the others are Miss Pott's figures. The rate is the number of deaths of children under one year to 1,000 births:—

Date.	Country.	Rate.
1880	New Zealand	92
1890	"	78
1892	"	(89)
1893	"	(88)
1894	"	(81)
1895	"	(88)
1900	"	75
1910	"	67 (68)
1911	"	(56)
1908	Ontario	131 (124)
1911	"	117
1895	United Kingdom	161 (152)
1912	"	95
	(not given in 1913 Cd. 6578.)	
1911	England and Wales	(130)

EDWARD GREEN.

RESTRICTING THE EDUCATION OF GIRLS.

MADAM,—As a teacher in an elementary school, I agree with Mr. A. W. Dakers, "that 'household arithmetic' is advocated for the purpose of restricting the general education of girls." This frankness of utterance on the part of Mr. Dakers is appreciated very much just now by progressive women teachers in elementary schools, since the Executive of the National Union of Teachers is advocating "that the teaching of housecraft to girls should be made compulsory" (the italics are my own), and Mr. A. W. Dakers is the President of the National Union of Teachers.

ITALE M. DICE.

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(Further details will be announced in the Daily Press.)

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London Society of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

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Speakers: Miss CLEMENTINA BLACK (President, Women's Industrial Council); Miss CATHERINE MARSHALL (Hon. Parl. Sec., N.U.W.S.S.) on "The N.U. Council Meeting"; H. CAWBY, Esq., M.P.; A. F. WHYTE, Esq.
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NOTICE.—This paper is obtainable at newsagents and bookstalls by mid-day on Friday. If any difficulty is found in obtaining it locally, please communicate with The Manager, THE COMMON CAUSE.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies being a body which exists solely to obtain the enfranchisement of women, holds no official view upon any other topic. Opinions expressed upon other subjects must not be regarded as necessarily those of the Union.

Our Common Humanity.

There were many men at the Great Demonstration in the Albert Hall on February 14th. The organising of a meeting on this vast scale, when men and women came together in the women's cause, was an outward and visible sign of the great inward principles which animate and drive the movement—the principle of co-operation between men and women, carried out not only in the home but in the whole of life. And there was in consequence a complete absence of any note of bitterness and antagonism in the speeches; and a sense of unity in speakers and audience to which the senseless opposition of a tiny minority only gave opportunity of expression. In spite of political difficulties, in spite of long and cruel strain, the "sense of the meeting" was one of hope and joy and spiritual exaltation.

The presence of so many men at what people are apt to regard as a women's meeting, brought out the fact that the claim of women to enfranchisement is not based upon their sex, but on their humanity. They demand the vote in order that their special point of view may be brought into the service of the State, but they found their demand on the fact that they are, equally with men, human beings. It is a claim which at once unites all Suffragists, whatever their political party. Whether they seek the electoral qualification in property, or in intelligence, in service given or in need felt, all Suffragists are at one in holding that the qualification which is right for a man is also right for a woman, because she is, equally with him, a human being.

The denial of this claim, however gracefully veiled, carries with it the implication that those to whom it is denied are not equally human with those to whom it is granted. For the "difference of function" which Anti-suffragists urge as a reason for denying women the vote without insisting on their inferiority, has no reality in the facts of life. The "functions" of men and women are not divided into political and domestic, for women do (and are urged to do) political work of the most difficult and arduous kind; and men, far from admitting women's supremacy in the home, themselves claim to exercise that supremacy. They are not divided into legislative and administrative work; for though women are not allowed to legislate, men can and do administer the law far more generally than women do. There is, in fact, no work that is not shared. The only "difference of function" is that men are to govern and women to obey. And this difference has always persuaded the rulers that they are on a higher level and more entirely "human" than the ruled. The "Divine Right of Kings" was the inevitable result of giving to one man absolute power. The divine right of men to absolute power has convinced them that they are "human" and women—a sex. It was against this narrow view that the meeting in the Albert Hall protested. It was the assertion by men and women that men have no divine right to absolute power over those who are equally human with themselves. And in the unanimous passing of the Women's Suffrage resolution by that vast concourse was expressed the belief that women are henceforth to be regarded as human first and women afterwards.

No one, however, could fail to realise that the most significant element in the great Demonstration was the serried ranks of men on the platform, representing the organisations—and chiefly Labour organisations—which are supporting the demand for Women's Suffrage; as perhaps the finest moment in the meeting

was that when, at the close of Mr. Henderson's speech, the vast audience rose and relieved their feeling of indignation against those who had tried to prevent the speech being heard, in cheer after cheer.

There are those to whom the friendship between the Woman's Movement and the Labour Movement is either inexplicable, or explicable only as a political manœuvre, like other political manœuvres. It is a greater, deeper thing than that. Not long ago Mrs. Fawcett wrote of the Suffrage Movement that it would be the greatest movement in the world if it were not that it was part of a still greater movement—the rising of the people all over the world. Perhaps only those who are at the heart of this great cause—those who have lived themselves into it—can quite realise how true this is. Those to whom it is “merely a political agitation” cannot do so: nor can those to whom it is merely a woman's question. The interrupters last Saturday no doubt thought themselves justified in denying to Mr. Henderson the right of free speech they claim for themselves, because the whole thing is to them one of political manœuvring, and they believe they could manœuvre so much better themselves. It is a common illusion. One could not help being reminded of a phrase used by Miss Ellen Terry in speaking of the attitude of certain critics towards her fellow-worker, Sir Henry Irving. They perpetually criticised his voice and his gait and his manner, says Miss Terry, “looking at him *with such sharp eyes and such short sight!*” So do our critics look at our great movement. They look, with the politician's eyes, at the surface of things. They mark the eddies and foam of the water, and its breaking waves. It takes the statesman to watch the flow of the river itself. Perhaps only a statesman with something of prophetic vision sees it. The task of finding fault is so much easier; and critics of the Labour Party, like the critics of the Suffrage movement itself, prefer this easier task, looking at us all with such sharp eyes and such short sight. Look deeper, and see a little beneath the surface.

The different political parties all over the world stand for different political reforms. The “Conservative” of one country claims the programme which is “Liberal” in another. The Labour Party is for Free Trade here, and for Protection elsewhere. For different circumstances men will desire different measures of reform. And in the National Union are men and women of different political creeds, against whom the charge of disloyalty to those creeds is sometimes brought.

But, for all these things, there is one principle underlying all, for which Labour all over the world is fighting: it is the one thing for which every Suffragist also stands, the one bond of union between us all—the one point at issue with our opponents. It is the refusal to let any class or sex exploit another class or sex; it is the assertion that every human being is an end in himself, and none shall be merely the means to another's end.

It is certain that where a section of the community has complete and arbitrary power over the rest, that section will exploit the rest. It is not always—perhaps it is very rarely—deliberate, but no one can read history and deny that it is a fact. The possession of arbitrary power intoxicates those who hold it into the belief that they are different from the rest of the world. It creates a division, deeper than any other division of class, between governing and governed, and ends in the exploiting of the governed. No one is good enough to be trusted with such power. “Put women in the place of men,” said Miss Jane Harrison, “and in six months' time there would not be a pin to choose between them.”

This great principle lies at the heart of the Woman's Movement. It is at the heart of the Labour Movement also. It is for this reason that Labour has not waited to become Suffragist until Women's Suffrage looked like a popular move. For Women's Suffrage is an essential part of their programme, whatever Suffragists themselves may do and think. Our ideal is the same—it is the refusal to allow any part of the community to exploit another; it is the indignant rejection of a social scheme which allows to any human being less than a human life, or puts him to less than a human purpose. It is the consciousness that such will always be the fate of any class or sex left wholly outside all share in government; and, consequently, the refusal to leave any class or sex thus completely outside. Above all, it is the realisation that none are truly free till all are free, and none can be exploited without putting all in bondage. It is said that we are free already if we desire it. No—we are not free, nor will we accept freedom, alone. Let every part of the community—all classes, both sexes—be free, and have a share in the Government which all must obey. Then, at last, we shall have a right to call ourselves free. And if this is indeed a far-off hope, let us the harder toil for its realisation nor be ashamed to be called visionaries, since where there is no vision the people perish.

THURSDAY NEXT

All Suffragists

who wish to secure

Good Places

for the

PUBLIC MEETING

*Organised by the Votes for Women Fellowship,
in the*

KINGSWAY HALL,

KINGSWAY, W.C.,

Thursday, February 26th,
at 8 p.m.

Should take Tickets at once,

as several parts of the Hall are already

Nearly Sold Out.

CHAIR:—

Mrs. Pethick Lawrence.

SPEAKERS:—

Sir Harry Johnston

(The famous Explorer and Administrator).

Miss Lena Ashwell,

Mr. George Lansbury

(Just returned from America).

and

Mr. Pethick Lawrence.

TICKETS: Front Central Stalls and Balcony (numbered and reserved) 2s. 6d.; other Stalls, Balcony and Orchestra (numbered and reserved) 1s.; Unreserved Stalls 6d. (Unreserved Balcony all sold out). from the Ticket Secretary, Votes for Women, 4-7, Red Lion Court, Fleet Street, E.C.

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THE NATIONAL UNION COUNCIL.

The N.U.W.S.S. delegates met in Council on February 12th, 13th, and 14th. An enormous amount of business had to be worked through, and the delegates were kept hard at it all the time. Mrs. Fawcett was in the chair at the first meeting, and afterwards Mrs. Rackham (Chairman of the N.U. Executive Committee).

An urgency resolution was passed unanimously:—

"That the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies in Council assembled welcomes the action of the Labour Party in moving an amendment to the address in reply to the King's Speech, regarding the omission of any promised legislation to enfranchise women, and calls upon all advocates of Women's Suffrage in the House of Commons, by voting for this amendment, to support its demand for a Government measure."

Another resolution declared that:—

"This meeting, while strongly protesting against methods of violence employed by some advocates of Women's Suffrage, equally condemns such methods as practised by the Government in the forcible feeding of prisoners, and urgently demands that such practices be discontinued."

Several alterations were made in the Rules, the most important being that admitting the London Society to the status of a Federation, with all its rights and responsibilities, though, owing to the special character of its work and organisation, the Society does not adopt the ordinary federation rules. Two very important pieces of work on new lines were undertaken; the formation of an Active Service League, on the lines suggested by Mrs. Harley; and of Women's Citizens' Associations, on the lines adopted by the Liverpool Society with such success.

The ballot for the Executive Committee resulted in the election of the following:—

Mrs. Corbett Ashby, Councillor Margaret Ashton, Miss Atkinson, Lady Frances Balfour, Dr. E. Sloan Chesser, Miss Clark, Mrs. Cross, Miss I. O. Ford, Mrs. Harley, Mrs. Haverfield, Miss Leaf, Miss Macmillan, Miss Mathieson, Mrs. Osler, Miss Palliser, Mrs. Rackham, Councillor Eleanor F. Rathbone, Miss Maude Royden, Mrs. Stanbury, Mrs. Swanwick, and Miss Tanner.

All the honorary officers were re-elected.

LONDON GRADUATES AND WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

The London Graduates' Union sent a petition to Mr. Asquith asking that the promise of a Women's Suffrage Bill should be included in the King's Speech, on the ground that, while men alone have the vote, the government of the country does not rest on the consent of the governed, and the authority of the law is weakened. The petitioners further represented that experience has led women to the conviction that they should claim the vote so that they may help to improve moral and social conditions; that the moral tone of the nation is lowered by the indiscriminate application to them of a disability humiliating in the case of men; that women need the protection of the vote more now that the male franchise has been vastly extended; that the payment of members emphasises the grievance of taxation without representation; and that, the Suffragist majority in the Commons being ineffective owing to its division into various groups, the Government itself should introduce the reform.

THE SCOTTISH CHURCHES AND WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

The Scottish Anti-suffrage League has sent out memorials to the Established Church Presbyteries asking them to take no action on the subject of Women's Suffrage, because it is a political question. The Suffrage Societies have replied asking the Presbyteries to receive a deputation of women who will lay their views before them. It will be interesting to hear what answer they will receive. Suffragists have always held that their movement is a moral one. Anti-suffragists claim that it is (1) a question of morals, when they want to horrify people; (2) a question of politics, when they want to keep them quiet.

THE CONGREGATIONAL UNION OF ENGLAND AND WALES.

The Congregational Union at its autumn meeting last year considered the "Position of Women in our Churches." This year, in May, the "Present Day Responsibility of Women in Church Life" will be dealt with.

"COMMON CAUSE" SELLERS.

Sellers are specially asked to keep time free during the *Daily News* Exhibition (Woman's Kingdom), beginning on April 11th, and lasting two and a-half weeks. We propose to publish next week particulars for the reorganisation of the street sale of THE COMMON CAUSE in London in our next issue. Volunteers, please note!

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS and mention THE COMMON CAUSE when ordering goods.

THE BY-ELECTIONS.

LEITH BURGHS.

Electorate, 17,743.

Liberal Majority, 1,785.

Candidates: **Mr. J. N. Bell, Labour.**
Mr. G. W. Currie, Unionist.
Provost Malcolm Smith, Liberal.

Organiser-in-Charge: Miss Lisa M. Gordon. Central Committee Rooms: 102, Leith Walk, Leith.

Speakers and Workers.—Miss Margaret Robertson, Mrs. Chew, Mrs. Annot Robinson, Mrs. Shaw McLaren, Miss Alice Low, Miss St. John, Miss Sheard, Miss Hillston, Miss Westwood, Miss Pressley-Smith, Miss Sayer, Miss Moody, Mrs. Scott, Mrs. Airlie, Miss Alice Smith, Mrs. Cameron, and many other local helpers.

Polling day has now been fixed for Thursday, February 26th, and sighs of relief were heaved by our workers when they realised that this—our third E.F.F. by-election within three months—was to be only a ten days' fight. Though short, it will be none the less strenuous, and at the time of writing, our organisers and workers are hard at work in every part of the division. The plan of campaign adopted with success in N.-W. Durham is to be followed here also. Miss St. John, Miss Sheard, and Miss Westwood have taken Committee Rooms, and are acting as Labour Sub-Agents in Musselburgh, Portobello, and Leith respectively. We have also enlisted the services of a large band of voluntary workers, who are canvassing, working-up and stewarding at meetings, as well as doing the thousand-and-one things which are always waiting for any willing helper. An extensive canvass is being carried out, and between twenty and thirty meetings have already been arranged in co-operation with Mr. Arthur Peters, the Organiser for the Labour Party. We intend also to hold some afternoon women's meetings, and others in the open air. Considerable assistance is being rendered by members of the Edinburgh Society, who are providing hospitality for most of the election contingent.

All three candidates have received deputations from members of our Society. Mr. G. W. Currie, the Unionist, professes himself a Suffragist, and is a member of the C.U.W.F.A., but he refused to give us any pledges or to answer our questions.

Provost Malcolm Smith made no secret of his views, but told us frankly that Women's Suffrage was not a question that he had ever considered very deeply. He acknowledged the excellent work that had been done in many places, including Leith, by women members of Town Councils and School Boards, and consequently believed that women should vote for Home Rule Parliaments. As far as the present is concerned, however, he is not prepared to help us by bringing pressure to bear upon his party, though he naively admitted that if they took up the question he might see reason to change his mind.

Mr. J. N. Bell has long been a believer in the women's movement, and has answered all our test questions in the affirmative. His election address states his conviction that the women's vote would do much to help towards the abolition of sweating and other social evils. A story has been circulated in the daily papers that Mr. Bell is not prepared to press for a Government measure giving votes to women. This is probably due to a printer's error, the exact opposite being the truth, as is proved by Mr. Bell's clear and definite replies to our questions. Mr. Bell is a Justice of the Peace, and for the last twenty-five years has been connected with the National Amalgamated Union of Labour, of which he is now the General Secretary. Backed by many of the most prominent speakers in the Labour movement, including Mr. J. Keir Hardie, M.P., we feel sure that the fight which he is making in the constituency will lead to success.

In many respects, Leith Burghs is a less difficult division to work than some we have known. It consists of the Burghs of Leith, Portobello, Musselburgh, and the little fishing village of Newhaven. Its seventeen thousand voters thus cover a comparatively small area, and the over-crowding which exists in some of the old tenements must be seen to be realised. In Leith, a great many of the men are dockers, whose work is necessarily somewhat irregular, and there are also large shipbuilding works employing many hundreds, and in Portobello the railway men are organising and working for Bell. During the whole of last summer Leith was in a state of ferment owing to the prolonged strike of the dockers, which, of course, also affected many other workers; and the dissatisfaction and discontent then aroused by a fuller realisation of their bad social conditions will probably do much in this fight for Labour representation.

Every kind of women's work is to be found, much of which is badly paid. The work that we have already done, and the meet-

ings that have already been held have prepared the ground well, and the women are coming forward with enthusiasm to help in the contest. Leith possesses a strong Branch of the Women's Labour League, whose leading spirit is Miss Clarice McNab, the newly elected Town Councillor, and these women are giving all their spare time to help with the canvassing.

The only people who have secured shops in the main street are the Suffragists, and competition for Committee Rooms has been very severe. Had we not been very early in the field it would have been impossible to secure premises. As it is, we have a large shop, the envy of the Home Rulers, who, treading on our heels, would have been glad of the chance of out-bidding us.

The local Labour forces are well organised, owing to the recent municipal elections which resulted in the return of four of the Labour nominees, and hopes are high that Mr. Bell will double the poll of the last Labour candidate, Mr. Walker, and be returned triumphantly as Member for Leith Burghs.

[A photograph of Mr. Bell, which we had hoped to publish, unfortunately had not arrived at time of going to press.]

SOUTH BUCKS BY-ELECTION.

Candidates: **Mr. Tonman Mosley, Liberal.**
Mr. Baring du Pre, Unionist.

Polling Day: February 18th.

In the early part of the week, before the Council took away most of our workers, we held indoor meetings at Core's End, Gerrard's Cross, Lane End, Beaconsfield, and Marlow. Mrs. Whalley and Miss Sylvia Clark were then left to carry on the campaign on village greens.

There is no doubt that the population of S. Bucks is keenly interested in the question of Women's Suffrage. We have held eleven indoor meetings, and, except on two occasions, when there were rival meetings, the halls have always been full. Only once has there been anything approaching a disturbance, and, with one exception, the resolution demanding a Government measure has been passed with practically no dissentients, a remarkably large proportion of the audience voting. Out-of-doors our speakers have met with an equally good reception, whether in Wycombe itself, or in the villages, or at the various mills and factories. A society has been formed at Slough, and about fifty members and eight hundred "Friends" have been enrolled in the constituency. Twenty dozen copies of THE COMMON CAUSE have been sold, to say nothing of dozens of badges.

Those indefatigable workers, Mrs. Berney and Mrs. Robie Uniacke, have been splendidly supported by members of the S. Bucks and neighbouring societies, and we have to thank many friends for hospitality, especially Mrs. Scott and Dr. Eva Meredith, who gave homes to organisers for the whole period of the election. The work in the outlying districts was facilitated by a most welcome gift of £10 from Miss Courtauld for motor-cars.

Polling is taking place as THE COMMON CAUSE goes to press.

LONDON BY-ELECTIONS.

SOUTH-WEST BETHNAL GREEN.

Candidates: **Mr. John Scurr, (Independent Candidate), Labour.**
Rt. Hon. C. F. G. Masterman, Liberal.
Major Sir Mathew Wilson, Unionist.

London Society's Committee Rooms: 270, Bethnal Green Road, E.

Organisers in Charge: Mrs. Foulkes, Miss Deverell.

By the simple expedient of visiting practically every house in Bethnal Green Road, and inviting it to give up its front room, Mrs. Foulkes accomplished the impossible and secured a central and showy footing. The questions asked the candidates on behalf of the N.U.W.S.S. were:—

- (1) Will you pledge yourself in your Election Address to support Women's Suffrage in the House of Commons?
- (2) Will you urge your Party to make Women's Suffrage a part of its programme, and to introduce a Women's Suffrage Bill?
- (3) Will you oppose any further extension of the franchise to men so long as women are excluded?

In answer to (1) Sir Mathew Wilson replied (in effect) that if he had been seen earlier he would have put W.S. in his address.

- (2) (Verbally) Wait for a General Election, and put it to the country.
- (3) Should it be proposed, I would be in favour of not "extending" the franchise until the women had been dealt with.

(NOTE.—For about two months, the Society's Organisers have endeavoured unsuccessfully to obtain an interview with Sir Mathew.)

Mr. Masterman declines to see the Organiser. The W.L.F. report that he informs them he will vote for a Bill which shall include working men's wives.

Mr. Scurr answers as follows:—

(1) As I am not enumerating the political reforms I am in favour of, Women's Suffrage, in common with others, is not specifically mentioned. I am a member of the Men's Union for Women's Suffrage and Votes for Women Fellowship.

(2) If returned, I should not be a member of any Party in the House.

(3) Emphatically, Yes.

Mr. Scurr, in his election address, makes a scathing criticism of the Government's failure to redeem its pledges to "the women fighting for freedom."

An active campaign, chiefly out of doors, is resulting in the gaining of many "Friends." A public meeting on Wednesday, at St. Andrew's Schools, will be addressed by Miss Helen Ward, and others. We receive many friendly greetings from those who remember us at the election two years ago, when the suffragists helped so materially to reduce Mr. Masterman's majority. A delighted "Here they are" and wave of the whip from a big railway dray, was probably one of the fruits of the Albert Hall meeting, where the National Union of Railwaymen turned up in great force. Among the speakers have been Miss Philippa Fawcett, Miss Deverel, Miss Mahony, Mr. Shallard, Miss H. Ward, and many others, and among local residents who have given their hearty co-operation and support are Rev. F. E. Birch, Vicar of Shoreditch, Miss Hopper Greenwood, Miss James, P.L.G., and Miss Wray, P.L.G.

A. H. W.

POPLAR.

Candidates: Mr. J. Jones (Independent Candidate), Labour.

Mr. A. W. Yeo, Liberal.

Mr. R. Kerr Clark, Unionist.

London Society's Committee Rooms: 174, East India Dock Road. Organiser in Charge: Miss Rinder.

The N.U.W.S.S. questions are given in full in the Bethnal Green report. Mr. Kerr Clark has made no reply to them, but when questioned at a public meeting he said, "Personally I am opposed to Women's Suffrage. I am afraid I cannot support such a drastic (?) change unless I am persuaded that the majority of women want it."

Mr. Yeo (who has several times shown himself as an excellent friend in the past) unfortunately replies somewhat indefinitely, as follows:—

(1) Sorry; address already in print.

(2) Will support any measure for Women's Suffrage. I am in full accord with those members of the Government who are in favour of such measure.

(3) At any time a measure is brought forward, would certainly receive that consideration it deserved.

Mr. Jones answers all three questions in the affirmative, and the N.U.W.S.S. is therefore giving him its support.

An open-air campaign is being carried on, and a public meeting at the Henry Currie Schools on Wednesday has the following influential speakers:—Chair, Mrs. F. T. Swanwick, M.A. Speakers, Mrs. Attlee and Rev. Maillard, of the Poplar Borough Council, and Mrs. Hirtland. In both this constituency and in Bethnal Green a great feature is being made of the asking of questions at candidates' meetings.

A. H. W.

ACTIVE SERVICE LEAGUE.

The formation of an Active Service League for the purpose of open-air campaigns and for the outdoor selling of THE COMMON CAUSE having been sanctioned by the Council of the N.U.W.S.S., no time should be lost in calling up recruits and getting the whole scheme organised in preparation for the summer months, when it is hoped that every Federation will evolve some special effort in the form of open-air propaganda.

The construction as amended by the Council to be as follows:

- (1) Chief, Mrs. Fawcett.
- (2) A League Leader, who would also be Chairman of the Active Service League Committee.
- (3) A Section Leader for each Federation responsible for the groups formed in their area.
- (4) A Group Leader responsible for each group formed in individual Societies.
- (5) The Members of the League, who will pledge themselves, whenever possible, to devote at least one week in the year to open-air campaigning; on joining to state the particular form of work they are best able to undertake, either as (a) Speakers; (b) COMMON CAUSE sellers; (c) "F.W.S." collectors; (d) money collectors; (e) literature sellers.
- (6) A special section of outdoor COMMON CAUSE sellers, to be under the leadership of the Editor of THE COMMON CAUSE.

The League to be under control of the N.U., and the organisation to be in the hands of the Active Service League Committee. The Committee to be composed of the officers of the N.U., and the Section Leaders under the Chairmanship of the League Leader.

All the officers of the League to be elected annually by the Members.

I earnestly appeal to the National Union, and specially to those in the heyday of life and activity, to take up this scheme with enthusiasm and energy.

We want the League to be a living testimony of our zeal and devotion and self-sacrifice to the cause of women's freedom; we want its members to penetrate, either on bicycles or on foot, into every village and hamlet in the Kingdom, and preach the gospel of the faith that is in us. With the General Election in view, the rural voter is as important to us as the voter in the towns, and we cannot afford to allow large masses of our rural population to remain still in ignorance of this great question. The experiences of the Pilgrimage taught us that this was at present the case. Therefore, what splendid work lies before our Leaguers. It is only through open-air campaigns that these out-of-the-way places can be converted. Do not delay, but come and join us at once. Until the organisation of the League is in working order, I shall be glad to receive the names of those wishing to be members, and specially of those who feel they have the time and capacity to be Group Leaders. I have already some promises for the posts of Section Leaders.

KATHERINE M. HARLEY.

Condover House, near Shrewsbury.

"WOMAN'S KINGDOM."

N.U.W.S.S., 14, GREAT SMITH STREET, WESTMINSTER.

Treasurer: MISS LONGLEY.

Organiser: MISS V. C. C. COLLUM.

ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING.

The first meeting of the Advisory Council was held at the National Union Offices, at 3 o'clock, on Monday afternoon, when the reports of the Treasurer and Organiser were given, and the general organisation of the different sections was discussed.

INFANT WELFARE.

It is most necessary that a small committee, to organise and be responsible for this section, should be got together, as the regular associations for promoting infant welfare have not sufficient workers to spare to take over the organisation of a section such as this at an exhibition that is open for two and a half weeks. Readers of THE COMMON CAUSE who could give time and energy and knowledge to such a section are earnestly asked to communicate with the Exhibition office. First, there is the Crèche to organise—since the association that had the first refusal of this piece of work has now decided that it cannot devote the time to doing it; and then there are several stands to fill with suitable exhibits.

COMMISSIONAIRES AND HOSPITALITY.

More commissionaires are still wanted. Will not more of the younger Pilgrims, who did such good work on the long march to London, offer their services for this work, even if only for one week? Hospitality seems to be the greatest difficulty at present. May I once more appeal to members living in London to offer full hospitality, if possible, and, if not, a bed with board at, say, from half-a-guinea to 12s. 6d. per week, which some of the commissionaires would be quite ready to pay. Commissionaires who can find their own quarters in London are asked to do so.

COSTUMES.

The lady who was to have organised the cutting-out and distribution of the commissionaires' costumes is unavoidably prevented from doing so, and someone who would do this for us in her place is urgently needed.

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Notes from Headquarters.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

President: MRS HENRY FAWCETT, L.L.D.

Hon. Secretaries:

MISS K. D. COURTNEY.
MISS C. E. MARSHALL (Parliamentary).
MISS EMILY M. LEAF (Press).
MISS EVELYN ATKINSON (Literature).

Hon. Treasurer:

MRS. AUERBACH.

Secretary:

MISS CROOKENDEN.

Offices: Parliament Chambers, 14, Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, S.W.
Telegraphic Address—Voiceless, London. Telephone Number—1960 Victoria.

THE MANDATE FUND.

CONVINCING PROOF OF STRENGTH OF DEMAND FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

No more fitting occasion for the inauguration of the Women's Suffrage Mandate Fund could possibly have been chosen than that of the great Albert Hall meeting on Saturday. It is the object of this Fund, as has been stated, so to strengthen our work in the present year that Women's Suffrage will be one of the paramount issues at the next General Election. The presence of those hundreds of men, drawn from every class and section of the community to demonstrate with us the strength of the demand for women's enfranchisement, evoked that vivifying consciousness of the greatest of all bonds between human beings—the bond of a common purpose.

It is an utterly impossible task to express the thanks we owe to all the thousands who gave us proof of the earnestness of their support; but the deepest gratitude will be felt throughout the country to all those who have in any way helped towards the splendid result of Saturday's meeting. The Mandate Fund has, indeed, had a magnificent send off. The total of the collection now stands at over £6,000, and contributions still continue to reach us by post.

This substantial testimony of public support is the greatest encouragement, and will enormously facilitate the arduous and ever-present labour of raising money for the urgent needs of our vast campaign.

A REAL PERSONAL SACRIFICE.

At no time has money been given with greater generosity, and this particular collection, in its very composition, reflects the character of that wonderful audience, composed of men and women without limit of class or creed. So we find sums given ranging from a £1,000 cheque down to the single penny; and the collection plates included coins of every value in the currency of the realm. Many a working man and woman could not have been there except at real personal sacrifice. Who knows better than we do how small is that surplus which the worker's weekly budget leaves for anything save the necessities of existence? And yet we find these hundreds and hundreds of pennies in our collecting plates. To us they are among the most eloquent and precious testimonies that it was possible to offer.

Once more we tender our heartfelt thanks to all who have given us renewed strength and hope.

HELENA AUERBACH,
Hon. Treasurer.

PROCRASTINATORS, SEND YOUR DONATIONS!

A coupon for the use of anyone who has not yet sent a donation will be found at the bottom of page 890.

Women's Suffrage Mandate Fund.

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Mrs. H. Western Eve	5 0 0	Mrs. C. Cotterill	5 0
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Miss M. A. Evans	2 0 0	Miss R. G. Falkiner	1 0 0
Hon. Mrs. A. Pelham	1 1 0	Miss F. Blackett	2 0
Mr. F. Faithfull Begg	1 1 0	Mr. and Mrs. Robert Slack	20 0 0
Mrs. Frank Raikes	1 1 0	Hon. Mrs. Gilbert Vane	5 0 0
Mrs. G. H. Lomas	2 0	Mrs. Gregory Rose-Innes	2 2 0
Miss Annie J. Coles	1 0 0	Anonymous	10 0 0
Mrs. Le Lacheur	10 0 0	Mrs. Armitstead	10 0
Miss Edith Briant	1 0 0	Mrs. Dyke	5 0
Miss F. Erith	1 0 0	Mrs. Lake (Chand)	8
Miss B. Greswell	2 0 0	Lady Emily Wyndham Quin	2 0 0
Mrs. Druce	5 0 0	Mrs. Arthur Whitting	2 0 0
Miss A. B. Weir	2 6	Mrs. Rinder	1 1 0
Miss Cartha Sturge	1 1 0	Miss Gladys Young	1 1 0
Mrs. Gertrude Wild	2 6	Mrs. C. H. M. Davidson	1 1 0
In Memoriam, Honor Morton	1 5 0	Miss Emily A. Fawcett	1 1 0
Miss Elsie Blomfield	5 0	Mrs. R. H. Green	1 1 0
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A list of the contributions from Societies and Federations will be published next week.

Report of Literature Department.

The revised and enlarged edition of Miss Royden's *Votes and Wages*, A. 78, price 3d., is now ready, and was in much demand at the Albert Hall demonstration.

The judgment delivered in November, 1913, on the action brought by members of the Hastings N.U.W.S.S. against the Mayor and Corporation of Hastings, has now been published in pamphlet form, and is stocked in the Literature Department, price 2d. The claim made under the Riot Damage Act referred to the occasion in May, 1913, when members of the N.U.W.S.S. had to take refuge from a mob in an hotel at Hastings, and to get this protection had to sign an agreement to pay the cost of damages done to the hotel. It was held that the damage done by the mob was owing to the police arrangements being inadequate. The case was won by the Suffragists. The pamphlet is very interesting reading.

There are still some programmes of the Albert Hall meeting left. These can be had from the National Union, price 3d. each, post free.

TO CORRESPONDENTS, SECRETARIES, AND OTHERS.

You are urgently requested to address reports and notices of meetings to the Sub-Editor, and advertisements and orders for copies of THE COMMON CAUSE to the Business Manager (address in both cases, 2, Robert Street Adelphi). There seems to be a widespread misconception that the Editor busies herself in spare moments by tying up parcels of copies of THE COMMON CAUSE for despatch, while the Manager collects "copy" for the next issue. The editorial and business departments are *entirely separate*, and matter addressed to the wrong person is often delayed by some hours.

SECRETARIES AND CORRESPONDENTS PLEASE NOTE!

The following are the dates on which the reports of the various Federations are due to appear in the "C.C." They should be sent to the Sub-Editor, THE COMMON CAUSE, 2, Robert Street, Adelphi, *not later than the Monday morning previous to the date of issue*. It is urgently requested that reports shall only be sent through the "C.C." correspondents, whose names and addresses are printed below.

First Friday in the Month:—

London Society: Correspondent, Miss Ward, London Society, 58, Victoria Street, S.W.

Manchester and District Federation: Mrs. J. E. Tomlinson, Byefield, Knutsford, Cheshire.

South-Western: Miss E. Mathieson, Otterbourne, Budleigh Salterton.

East Midland: Miss E. J. Sloane, M.A., 13, Welford Road, Leicester.

South Wales and Monmouth: Dr. Eric Evans, 23, Dumfries Place, Cardiff.

Second Friday:—

North-Western Federation: Miss A. Graham, 9, Vicarage Terrace, Kendal.

West Midland: Mrs. Harlev, Condover House, near Shrewsbury.

Central Counties: Miss L. Dickens, Cherington, Shipston-on-Stour.

Surrey, Sussex, and Hants.: Miss J. W. Powell, Munstead Rough, Godalming, Surrey.

Scottish: Miss Latta, 2, St. Andrew's Square, Edinburgh.

Bournemouth Society: Miss Kemp Turner, Calluna, 4, Westcliff Road, Bournemouth.

Third Friday:—

London Society: Correspondent, Miss Ward, London Society, 58, Victoria Street, S.W.

North and East Riding of Yorkshire Federation: Mrs. A. M. Daniel, 14, Royal Crescent, Scarborough.

West Lancs., West Cheshire, and North Wales: Miss E. F. McPherson, 16, Newland Drive, Liscard, Cheshire.

Oxford, Bucks., and Berks.: Miss L. C. Jones, Jesmond Hill, Pangbourne, Berks.

Fourth Friday:—

North-Eastern Federation: Dr. Mabel Campbell, 2, Graingerville, South, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Kentish: Mrs. Davies, 1, Napier Mansions, Mt. Ephraim Road, Tunbridge Wells.

West of England: Miss J. Baretti, 49, Royal York Crescent, Clifton, Bristol.

Eastern Counties: Miss E. Place, 24, Quilter Road, Felixstowe.

West Riding of Yorks.: Mrs. H. F. Hall, Oaklands, Collegiate Crescent, Sheffield.

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News from the Societies and Federations.

West Lancashire, West Cheshire, and North Wales.

ORGANISATION.—During the first part of the month Miss Eskridge and Miss Thompson have been working at obtaining resolutions from Trade Unions, and asking the Unions to send delegates up to the Albert Hall Meeting, with the satisfactory result that 155 of such resolutions have been passed since the work was started, and that twenty-three delegates, of whom three are City Councillors, will be present on February 14th, representing the following bodies: Liverpool, Southport, St. Helens, Warrington, and Carnarvon Trades and Labour Councils; Liverpool and Prescot L.L.P.; Liverpool City Council Labour Group, Liverpool Typographical Association, Labour Representation Committee, Artists and Designers, Shop Assistants and Warehouse Clerks, Railway Clerks, National Union Railway Servants, Masons and Paviers, Printers' Warehousemen and Cutters, Garston National Union of Railway Servants, Bottle Loco, Engineermen and Firemen, National Union of Dock Labourers and Riverside Workers, St. Helens' Miners, Assurance Agents, and National Union of Railway Servants.

CONTINUED CAMPAIGN IN CARNARVON BURGHS.—For the public meeting in Carnarvon on February 3rd, the same plan was followed as at Pwllheli. The 2,000 voters in the town received a personal invitation to the meeting, with a leaflet in English and Welsh of extracts from Mr. Lloyd George's speeches. The W.L.A. heartily co-operated, with the result that the meeting was a great success. The Guild Hall was well filled to listen to Miss E. F. Rathbone and Miss Fraser, who both spoke with splendid effect; Mr. Isaac Edwards making an excellent Chairman. Twenty new members joined the Society, including some of the Liberal women who have hitherto held aloof. Two days later, Miss Fraser addressed a meeting, when the Society in Carnarvon was reconstructed, with a membership of about sixty. Miss Fraser also addressed a meeting of temperance workers at Penygroes, and a public one at Bethesda, her speech at the latter meeting being particularly effective. The campaign concluded with a meeting in Bangor on February 6th, when Sir Henry Lewis presided, and Miss Fraser spoke on "The Nation's Need of the Women's Vote," and Miss Eskridge on the campaign. Copies of *THE COMMON CAUSE* and literature were sold.

BIRKENHEAD.—Several delegates from Trade Unions attended the Demonstration.

BANGOR.—On December 9th, Miss Abadam addressed a meeting for women only in the Old Tabernacle Schoolroom, Bangor; Miss Lamport presided. Ten F.W.S. cards were signed, £1 1s. taken as a collection, and 8s. 6d. worth of literature sold. On January 30th a successful rummage sale in aid of the funds of the Society was held when £8 2s. 6d. was realised.

CHESTER.—A market in aid of the funds of the Society was held in the Holborn Cafe, when £7 8s. 2d. was made. A public meeting was held later in the afternoon, when Mrs. E. Noel Humphreys presided, and Miss Jessie Beavan spoke. Two new members were enrolled, and 10s. taken in collection.

HOLYHEAD.—On December 9th, Mrs. Price White presided at a meeting for women only in the Co-operative Hall, when Miss Abadam spoke on "The Moral Question." Two of the audience joined the group, and £1 1s. 4d. was taken in collection.

PRESTON.—On January 29th, in St. Mary's Schoolroom, the Rev. G. H. Lunn, M.A., gave a most moving address on "For England, Home, and Beauty." The audience was much impressed. Four new members joined, twelve F.W.S. cards were signed, and 10s. taken in collection. The Preston Trades Council sent a delegate to the Albert Hall Demonstration.

RHYL.—On January 15th, the Misses Rees gave a drawing-room meeting, to arouse interest among members, in preparation for Miss Fraser's meeting. An interesting musical programme was given; Mr. Strickland presided and Mrs. Price White spoke.

On February 2nd an enthusiastic and influential meeting was held in the Town Hall; Miss Eskridge presided, and Miss Fraser gave an inspiring speech. The resolution demanding a Government measure to enfranchise women was passed unanimously. Thirty-seven new members joined the Society, and £2 7s. 1d. was taken in collection and ticket money.

SOUTHPORT.—Miss Rigby and Miss McVine were hostesses at the monthly At Home held on Monday afternoon on February 2nd. Mrs. Houston spoke on "The results of Women's Suffrage in New Zealand." Miss Legge recited. One dozen copies of *THE COMMON CAUSE* were sold, and some literature.

WREXHAM.—On January 9th, in the evening, a whist drive, in aid of the funds of the Society, was held. Prizes and refreshments were given, and £3 10s. was made.

WARRINGTON.—On January 8th, a debate was held, under the auspices of the Warrington Debating Society, on "Is Militancy Justifiable?" Miss E. Drummond, W.S.P.U., took the affirmative, and Miss E. F. McPherson, N.U.W.S.S., the negative. The resolution was lost. This Society has just opened its doors to women, and it was the first debate of the new session. Councillor Peacock, Mayor of Warrington, presided.

January 12th—Atkinson's Cafe—Miss Wilkinson presided at a meeting of members and "Friends," when Miss J. Forsyth, B.A., spoke on "Women and Housing, and the Urgent Necessity for Reform."

On January 20th, at Atkinson's Cafe, Mrs. Dodds presided (in the absence of the President) at the annual meeting. One new member joined.

WALLASEY AND WIRRAL.—January 8th—Miss Paxton spoke at Mrs. Martyn's drawing-room meeting, Newton-by-Frankly. Four F.W.S. cards were signed.

January 12th—Miss Macadam spoke at Mrs. King's drawing-room meeting, at Hoylake, and Miss Paxton presided. Two "Friends"—one new member.

January 22nd, at Ashfield, Heswall, Mrs. Percy Agnew gave a drawing-room meeting, when Mrs. Rohde presided, and Miss Jessie Beavan spoke most stirringly, and was listened to with great interest. Two new members joined.

January 23rd—Miss E. F. McPherson presided at Mrs. Tobin's meeting, Wallasey, when Miss Cherry spoke. Three new members joined, and nine copies of *THE COMMON CAUSE* were sold.

January 28th—Mrs. G. A. Stallybrass presided at Mrs. Richmond's drawing-room meeting in West Kirby, when Miss Jessie Beavan gave a most interesting address. Literature sold well, and copies of *THE COMMON CAUSE* were sold out. Sixteen new members joined.

January 30th—Mrs. Bulley presided at a meeting in the Concert Hall, Wallasey, when Mrs. Rackham gave a most interesting address to members and "Friends" on "The Urgency of Granting Women the Vote." Six new members joined, and literature and copies of *THE COMMON CAUSE* sold well.

Feb. 8th—The Wallasey Trades and Labour Council passed both resolutions re Women's Suffrage, and appointed a delegate to attend the Albert Hall Demonstration.

LIVERPOOL.—The Women's Citizens Association held the inaugural meeting of the St. Domingo Ward Branch, on January 28th, in the People's Hall. Miss Rathbone, C.C., who presided, explained the objects of the Society, and urged the need of both men and women taking a greater interest in municipal matters. Miss McConnell also spoke, urging especially the need for more adequate factory inspection and of women police. Ninety-five new members joined. As a result of six months' hard work, the Association now numbers over 600 members.

North and East Riding of Yorks.

The annual meeting of the Federation was held (by kind permission of Mrs. Edwin Gray) at Gray's Court, York, on January 30th. The officers were re-elected, and it was decided to appoint a Federation Secretary for the "F.W.S." Scheme. Miss Geraldine Cooke afterwards gave an address on the "F.W.S."

FILEY.—On January 26th, the annual meeting took place at the Crompton Cafe, when the officers and Committee were re-elected, and Miss Geraldine Cooke made a most interesting speech. One new member joined, and after refreshments had been served, a social evening was held. During the week January 26th—31st, *THE COMMON CAUSE* was sold at our annual meeting, and outside a Conservative meeting and a Liberal concert. Altogether five dozen copies were disposed of.

HARROGATE.—Dr. Laura Veale presided at a largely attended meeting in the Church Institute on January 23rd, which was addressed by Miss I. O. Ford, and Professor A. J. Grieve, M.A., B.D. A resolution demanding a Government measure for the enfranchisement of women was passed by an overwhelming majority, and twelve new members were enrolled.

MALTON AND DISTRICT.—The annual meeting was held on January 22nd, there was a fair attendance of members. Amongst other proposals it was decided to hold quarterly meetings for members and to ask Miss Helen Fraser to come and work in the villages in May. On January 30th, a successful invitation meeting was held in the Adult School. Rev. H. Ward was in the Chair and Miss Geraldine Cooke gave an excellent address. Copies of *THE COMMON CAUSE* were sold, nine new members joined and twenty-nine "Friends" cards were signed.

MIDDLESBROUGH.—The annual meeting of the Middlesbrough Society was held on January 21st, Mrs. Dickie presiding. The Hon. Secretary in her report said that the membership had increased and much useful work had been done, including a canvass of Trade Union Secretaries in November last by Miss Thompson, a N.U. Organiser, who came for the purpose. The Hon. Treasurer reported a balance in hand of 16s. 7d., and was pleased to note that the amount raised by subscriptions (£9 3s. 9d.) was nearly twice as much as was subscribed the previous year. The officers and committee for 1914 having been elected, Misses E. MacNay and F. W. Ward gave an amusing dialogue. Interesting and instructive speeches from Miss W. Jones and Mr. F. F. Perris concluded the proceedings.

On the afternoon of January 31st, Miss Geraldine Cooke addressed a small but sympathetic audience in St. Aidan's Parish Room. Mr. C. L. Robson ably presided. One member joined, the collection amounted to 13s. 4d.

SALTBURN-BY-THE-SEA.—January 23rd—The members of this branch were kindly entertained by Miss Flinery, at the Victoria Hotel on Friday evening, January 23rd. Very interesting and instructive papers were read by Mrs. Fleming, Miss Crewdson, and Miss Cranfield on "The Child," "Employment and Careers open to Women," and "Home Work." There was an animated discussion after each paper, especially after the one on "Home Work," when Miss Leahy told some of her experiences when visiting sweated workers in their homes. Members left looking forward with pleasure to the next social meeting which is to be arranged for next month.

February 6th—A meeting was held in the Towers Gymnasium on Friday night, Alfred Hutchinson, Esq., J.P., in the Chair—Speaker, Miss Muriel Matters. In spite of a very wet evening the attendance was very good indeed, and those who organised the meeting have every reason to feel

greatly encouraged. Miss Matters dealt mainly with the spiritual side of the Suffrage question, emphasising Individualism. The audience showed every sign of keen appreciation, and several questions were handed up to the platform and answered by Miss Matters, after her address. Thirteen copies of *THE COMMON CAUSE* were sold, four new members joined, £2 0s. 10d. was collected.

SCARBOROUGH.—January 27th—Miss Geraldine Cooke came to address a meeting in the Office, to which teachers and "Friends" of Women's Suffrage were invited. Mrs. Tindale Harris took the Chair. Three new members joined.

The Society has arranged a course of four lectures on the "Housing Question" at the Friends' Meeting House during the spring. The first two were given by Prof. Macgregor, M.A., and by Mr. R. S. Dower, M.A., both of Leeds University, and the Chairmen were the Mayor (C. C. Graham, Esq., J.P.) and Mr. A. M. David, J.P., respectively.

An "At Home" was given by the Committee on February 5th in the hope of drawing the members together. The gathering was a most successful one. Over eighty accepted, and the programme consisted of music, recitations, and speeches by Mrs. A. M. Daniel and the Rev. C. Llewellyn Smith. Six new members joined.

The Scarborough Trades and Labour Council and the local branch of the National Union of Railwaymen sent delegates to the Albert Hall, and six members of the Society were present.

YORK.—December 17th—Meeting at the Cholmondeley Hall, Brandesby, the Chair being taken by O. Rowntree, Esq., Mrs. Meyer spoke and proposed the resolution "That this meeting demands a Government bill for the enfranchisement of Women." The Rev. Walter Scott proposed a vote of thanks. Three new members joined, *THE COMMON CAUSE* was sold out and a collection of 9s. 7d. taken.

January 19th—Meeting in the Wighill schoolroom, about forty voters being present. Speakers, Miss Thompson and Mrs. Meyer—Chair, Mr. Whitehead. Collection taken, copies of *THE COMMON CAUSE* sold and two members enrolled.

January 29th—The annual meeting was held in the Assembly rooms, Mrs. Edwin Gray in the Chair. After the business meeting tea was served in the lounge, followed by a public meeting addressed by Miss Cooke, who explained the position of the N.U. in regard to the Labour Party. Collection taken, copies of *THE COMMON CAUSE* sold and three new members enrolled.

January 29th—A large public meeting in the Town Hall, Easingwold, Mrs. Meyer in the Chair. Miss Cooke gave an excellent address after which six members were enrolled. Collection 10s. 11d. Twenty-seven copies of *THE COMMON CAUSE* sold.

February 5th—Meeting at 10, Museum Street. Mrs. Davis spoke on "The Need of Lodging Houses for Women and Girls." She divided "Women" into two classes, elementary school teachers, and casual workers, including domestic servants. She informed her audience that a Society was already formed in York for providing suitable accommodation for women lodgers.

London.

EALING.—A successful drawing-room meeting was held at 90, Warwick Road, Ealing, by kind permission of Mrs. Nindward, on February 4th. Mrs. Ronald Garrett was the principle speaker—Miss Buck presided. Nine copies of *THE COMMON CAUSE* were sold.

On February 5th the Memorial Hall was well filled to hear Dr. Elsie Chubb on "Infant Mortality." Mrs. Richards also spoke on the "Moral Question" and Mrs. Sayers presided. Two new members were enrolled. Eight "Friends" enrolled. Fifteen copies of *THE COMMON CAUSE* sold.

HIGHGATE AND EAST ST. PANCRAS.—The generous help of the Elizabeth Bessee Comedy Co. and of Mrs. Fisher White enabled the combined branches to give a dramatic evening of unusual interest on February 5th, at St. Augustine's Hall, Highgate. The programme comprised "Eden Gate" a new play by Miss Millicent Wadham, two scenes from "Twelfth Night," and Yeats' "Land of Heart's Desire." All three items were warmly received by the audience, who also showed their appreciation of the excellent music contributed by members of the South Place Orchestra. The gross receipts were over £21, yielding a net profit of £14. Copies of *THE COMMON CAUSE* were sold, and good reports appeared in the local press.

RICHMOND.—A successful meeting having as its object the interesting of organised bodies of men in the forthcoming Albert Hall Demonstration, was

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held at Richmond on February 4th. Mrs. Nott Bower presided, the admirable speeches of Mr. Kennedy and Mrs. Swanwick arousing much enthusiasm. "Oddfellows" and "Forresters" pledged themselves to attend in numbers at the Albert Hall. Six new members were enrolled and forty-five copies of THE COMMON CAUSE sold.

Oxford, Berks and Bucks Federation Report.

BEACONSFIELD AND DISTRICT.—The By-election in South Berks has given an opportunity for a special campaign. On February 3rd Mrs. Leathes gave a lecture on "Our Collective Responsibilities" which proved attractive to Suffragists and non-Suffragists alike.

February 11th.—Meeting with Miss Dove in the Chair.—Speakers, Mrs. Whalley and Miss Sylvia Clarke. Over sixty people were present despite bad weather and the counter attraction of a Home Rule meeting in the Town Hall. A resolution passed with one dissentient. Several new members and some "Friends" were enrolled, and nine copies of THE COMMON CAUSE and other literature was sold.

GERRARD'S CROSS.—February 4th.—Drawing-room meeting by kind permission of Mrs. Schloesser. Mrs. Leathes, in a clever address, pointed out how mothers would be affected by the vote. The Chair was taken by Miss Stevenson.

February 9th.—Public meeting in the New Assembly Hall. Mrs. Berney (Treasurer O.B.B. Federation) in the Chair. Miss Muriel Matters gave a brilliant speech on "The Women's Movement from its Beginning." Miss Dora Mason, B.A., spoke on "The Importance of becoming members of the N.U.W.S.S." A collection was taken and a number of "Friends" cards signed. The audience were most sympathetic.

MAIDENHEAD.—January 7th.—Annual general meeting at Abbotsleigh, Cookham Road, when the report and balance-sheet were passed and the committee and officers re-elected.

January 22nd.—The local branch of the National Union of Railwaymen were addressed by Mrs. Robie Unlacke and Mr. E. Hower on "The Principles of Women's Suffrage." A unanimous resolution in favour of Women's Suffrage was passed and eighteen "F.W.S." cards were signed. On January 29th a Sweated Industries Exhibition was organised by the local branch of the N.U.W.S.S. Speakers, Miss Lena Ashwell, Mrs. Swanwick, M.A., and Mr. Heaton-Chair, Mrs. Robie Unlacke. Thirteen "F.W.S."—seven members—Thirty-four copies of THE COMMON CAUSE sold.

CHESHAM BOIS.—January 12th.—A lecture on "Education" was arranged, but the lecturer being prevented by illness, at the last moment, Miss Courtald spoke on "Suffrage," and some discussion followed. Six new members.

CHESHAM.—January 14th.—Afternoon meeting for working women. Mrs. Samuel and Miss Courtald spoke. Tea was given, and 6s. 4d. collected for expenses. This is a new experiment in Chesham; over thirty women came, and four joined.

February 11th.—Afternoon meeting for working women. Speakers, Mrs. Page and Mrs. Samuel.

GREAT MISSENDEN.—January 15th.—Dr. Scruby, lady assistant school medical officer, gave an address on the "Moral Education of Children" to a small but interested audience.

February 10th.—Public meeting, 8 p.m. Speaker, Miss Geraldine Cooke and Mrs. Garrett Jones—Chair, Miss Savory. The hall was crowded, but audience inclined to be unsympathetic. The result of the resolution was doubtful. Ten "Friends."

February 12th.—Mr. Leach spoke to a small audience of working women on "Women's Suffrage from the point of view of a working woman." Two new members.

WENDOVER.—January 29th.—Mrs. Meyerstein lectured on "Housing and the City Beautiful." Chair, Dr. Scruby. A good audience of ladies and one new member joined.

PRESTWOOD.—February 7th.—Miss Halford lectured on "Housing in Relation to Infant Mortality." Chair, Miss Courtald.

AMERSHAM.—February 2nd.—The first public meeting on our question held in this town in connection with the S. Bucks By-election. Speakers, Mrs. Whalley and Miss D. Mason, M.A.—Chair, Mr. Dixon Davies. The hall was crowded and the presence of members of the Anti-Suffrage branch in Amersham failed to prevent the resolution being carried. Forty-eight "Friends." Collection £1 5s. 6d. Fifteen copies of THE COMMON CAUSE sold.

OXFORD.—January 22nd.—A theatrical entertainment, "The Grinding Organ," by Maria Edgworth. Sale of tickets brought in £17 11s. 6d.

January 28th.—A public meeting was held at Charlbury Town Hall. Chair, Mrs. Haverfield supported by Viscount and Viscountess Dillon—Speakers, Miss Hadow and Miss Helga Gill.

January 29th. at Ruskin College (by kind permission of the Principal Dr. Slater). Members meeting to consider the agenda for Council Meeting.

READING.—January 12th.—Miss Barrand addressed the Lithographic Printers. The meeting was small, but all signed "Friends" cards. The same thing happened when on January 18th, Miss Dora Mason addressed the Steam Engine Makers' Union, The Railwaymen's Union, and the United Builders and Labourers' Union were also addressed, and these all sent delegates to the Albert Hall meeting.

February 5th.—Mrs. Stenhouse Williams kindly lent her house and Mrs. Denis Egan, Mrs. Bartram, Mrs. Goadby, and Mrs. Keeble organised an American Tea, at which Miss Pitman sang. This added £4 17s. to the fund Miss Barrand has been raising for the expenses of the public meeting on Monday. Many members have given donations to this fund, and Miss Barrand has added seven new members and ninety-three "Friends" to the Society.

WEST HERTS.—January 19th.—Miss Materin lectured on "Boarded out Children." January 21st.—Social evening at the Kingham Hall, when a small play was acted and progressive games. The profit was £3 10s.

February 2nd.—Mr. Montague lectured on "The Little Commonwealth," and on February 4th Miss Philip on "Poor Law Children."

WOKINGHAM.—January 14th.—The Society gave an "At Home" in the Drill Hall when the result of the prize competition was announced. There were very few entries for the competition (which included an essay on Mrs. Fawcett's History of Women's Suffrage and the best answers to a set of ten questions drawn up by the Society)—but nevertheless it excited great interest in the neighbourhood. A large number of copies of Mrs. Fawcett's book were sold, and there was an excellent attendance to hear the result of the competition. The prize winners were Miss R. A. Cole and Miss Cruftwell. Miss Oakley-Walker, who presented the prizes, has announced her intention of renewing them at a later date. In the evening the "F.W.S." were given their annual entertainment. Mrs. Robie Unlacke presided at both meetings. As a result of these meetings and the competition nine members and thirteen "F.W.S." have been enrolled including the two judges. Twenty-seven copies of THE COMMON CAUSE sold.

January 24th.—The Wokingham Branch of the N.U.R. unanimously passed a resolution calling upon the member to press for a Government measure for Women's Suffrage and selected a delegate for the Albert Hall Demonstration. They also invited Miss V. Eustace to address them on February 9th, when at a good meeting all present signed "F.W.S." cards.

Forthcoming Meetings.

Correspondents are urgently requested to write distinctly; and to send in NOT LATER THAN THE MONDAY before the announcement is to be inserted. Notices must be addressed to the Sub-Editor.

London.

FEBRUARY 20.

Fulham.—Weaver's Arms, Farm Lane, Walham Green.—Meeting of the Walham Green Branch of the Licensed Union of Vehicle Workers.—Speaker, Miss Helen Ward.

Islington.—Barnsbury Hall, Upper Street.—Suffrage Club Meeting.—Miss E. Wood on "The Evolution of Women's Work" 9.0

7.30

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FEBRUARY 22.

Poplar—East India Dock Gates—Open-air Meeting for Dockers—Speaker, Miss Ruth Young 11.45

FEBRUARY 23.

East Dulwich—46, The Gardens, Peckham Rye—Meeting for Members and "Friends"—Hostess, Mrs. Harvey—Speaker, Miss Stoehr 7.0
East Ham—Central Hall, Barking Road—Debating Society Meeting—Speaker, Miss Ruth Young 8.15
Islington—Islington Chapel, Upper Street—Parliamentary Debate—Speaker from Men's League for Women's Suffrage on "Votes for Women" 8.15

FEBRUARY 24.

East St. Pancras—65, Kentish Town Road—Meeting of Shop Assistants Union 9.45
Marylebone—25, Cavendish Square—Marylebone Committee At Home (by kind permission of Lady Horsley)—Speaker, Mrs. Oliver Strachey. Chair, Dr. Florence Willey 3.30
Mile End—Suffrage Shop, 29, Mile End Road—Speaker, Miss Waugh—Songs and Recitations 8.30

FEBRUARY 25.

Hammermith—Gladstone Club, Goldhawk Road, Shepherd's Bush—Mrs. Hamilton on "Children under the Poor Law" 3.0

FEBRUARY 26.

Ealing and Acton—Memorial Hall, West Ealing—Social Meeting—Miss Norris and Miss Philip on "Some Experiences of Children's Courts under the Poor Law"—Tea 3-6
East St. Pancras—187, Camden Road—Drawing-room Meeting—Hostess, Mrs. Davies—Speaker, Miss Ruth Young 8.0
Hoxton—Hoxton Hall, Hoxton Street—Debate of Girl's Guild of Good Life 8.0
Mackney—The Library Hall, Stoke Newington—Meeting of "Friends"—Suffrage Songs and Speeches—Speaker, Mrs. Campbell 8.0
Northwood—Priory Lodge—Drawing-room Meeting—Hostess, Mrs. Gibb—Miss Rosamond Smith on "The Child and the State" 3.0

FEBRUARY 27.

Walthamstow—Pioneer Institute—Annual Business Meeting of the Branch—Election of Officers and Committee 8.0

The Provinces.

FEBRUARY 20.

Birmingham—Franchise Club, 20, Easy Row.
Bournemouth—Canford Cliffs Hotel—The Bournemouth Branch and Parkstone Unionist Suffrage Joint Meeting—Speaker, The Lady Frances Balfour.
St. Peter's Hall—Suffrage Debate—For, The Lady Frances Balfour; Against, Miss Pott
Chesham Bois—Drawing-room Meeting—Hostess, Mrs. Luff—Speaker, Miss M. Martineau
Hastings—Queen's Hotel—Dramatic Entertainment by Members of the Bexhill W.S.S.
Hitchin—Co-operative Stores Room—Speaker, Mrs. Wathen—Chair, Mrs. Smithson 7.30
Manchester—United Methodist Church Schools, Stockport Road, Ravenshulme—Speakers, Councillor Margaret Ashton, M.A., and Mr. Fenner Brockway—Chair, Professor Chapman, M.A. 8.0
Olton—Schoolroom, Kington Road—Annual Meeting—Miss Matheson on "Woman and Labour"—Chair, the Rev. Newman Hall 8.0
Scarborough—Friends' Meeting—Lecture on "The Housing Problem: The Town Planning Act of 1909"—Mr. R. S. Dower, M.A.—Chair, Sydney Turnbull, Esq., J.P. 8.0
Skegness—"Arcadia"—Speakers, Miss Muriel Matters and Miss Blackstone—Chair, the Rev. W. A. Hind
Southampton—Art Gallery—Café Chantant—Ten Minutes Suffrage Speeches 4-6 and 8-9.30
Wallasey and Wirral—Ennersdale Church Room, Wallasey—Joint Meeting with B.W.T.A.
Wymondham—Debating Society—Miss Waring, B.A. 8.0

FEBRUARY 23.

Aylesbury—Town Hall—Miss Fielden and Miss Dora Mason 8.0
Barnley—Y.M.C.A. Social Evening—Speaker, Mrs. Renton—Chair, Mr. W. J. Bridge 7.15
Birmingham—Queen's College—United Meeting of Religious Leagues for Women's Suffrage—Speakers, Mrs. Percy Bigland, the Rev. A. Cohen, B.A., Miss Smyth-Pigott and the Rev. J. M. Lloyd Thomas—Chair, the Rev. F. Lewis Donaldson .0
Croydon—34a, The Arcade, High Street—Mrs. Ackroyd on "Some Means of doing away with Unemployment" 3.30
Derby—Temperance Hall—Speaker, Miss G. Cooke—Chair, the Rev. G. Holmes-Gare, M.A. 8.0
Droitwich—Raven Hotel—Hostess, Mrs. Pond—Speaker, Miss Helen Fraser 3.30
Lowestoft—St. Aubyn's Hall—Speakers, the Rev. C. H. Poppleton (of Catford) and Mr. H. R. Ponder—Chair, Dr. R. Worthington 8.0
Manchester—Parker's Restaurant, St. Ann's Square—At Home—Speaker, Lady Rochdale Parish Hall, Holy Innocents, Fallowfield—Concert—Miss Muriel Robinson, Mrs. Max Lawrence, the Rev. R. M. Tuke and Herr Carl Fuchs Clucheth Methodist Sunday School, Droylsden Road, Newton Heath—Councillor Margaret Ashton, Mr. Thatcher, Mr. Clement Stott, Mr. Alfred James—Chair, Mrs. Annot Robinson.
S. Salford—Suffrage Club—Oldfield Hall—Speaker, Mrs. Attack 8.0
Reading—Large Town Hall—Speakers, Mrs. Philip Snowden and Mrs. Rackham—Chair, Councillor W. E. Collier 8.0

Chapter 13

The Slavery of the Wash-tub

Wash-day at its best is a day of toil and worry and discomfort. Soap, steam and smell all through the house, smearing everything, blinding everybody.

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Wallasey and Wirral—Drawing-room Meeting. Hostess, Mrs. Harold Danger—Miss E. F. McPherson on "Legal Disabilities of Women"—Chair, Mr. G. Stallybrass 3.0

FEBRUARY 24.

Accrington—I.L.P. Rooms—Suffrage and Labour Social Meeting—Speaker, Mr. Thatcher 7.30
Bath—Guildhall—Mrs. Philip Snowden on "How Will Women Use the Vote?"—Chair, Alderman Silcock.
Birmingham—43, Frederick Road, Edgbaston—Monthly Meeting for Friends of Suffrage.
Bristol—40, Park Street—At Home
St. Agnes—Vicarage Working Party
Cambridge—"Kingsclere"—Hostess, Mrs. Davies—Mrs. Cooper on "Disabilities of Women in Industry" 3.0
Cambridge—Girton College—Debate—Mrs. Rackham and Miss Gladys Pott 8.0
Hastings—The Suffrage Club, 7, Havelock Road—Suffrage Inquiry Meeting—Questions from the audience, answers from the Chair 4.30
Llangollen—Pavilion—Pancake Tea and Cake Sale—Speeches—Music 3.30
Middlesbrough—Town Hall—Mrs. Nott Bower on "Social Purity and Women's Suffrage" 8.0
Oldham—Royton—Speaker, Miss C. Leadley-Brown.
Redditch—Temperance Hall—Public Meeting—Speakers, Miss Helen Fraser and Miss Williams—Chair, the Rev. Canon Moore Ede, Dean of Worcester 8.0
Tunbridge Wells—Wesleyan Guild—Miss Staines on "Women and Citizenship."
Worthing—1, Warwick Square—Hostess, Mrs. Thompson—Speaker from the Divorce Law Reform Union on "Legal Disabilities" 3.30

FEBRUARY 25.

Bridlington—Assembly Hall, Quay Road—Mrs. Nott Bower on "Social Purity in Relation to Women's Suffrage"—Chair, the Rev. A. W. Cooper (of Filey) 8.0
Bristol—Y.M.C.A. Totterdown—Speakers, Mrs. R. Talbot and Mrs. J. Martin 3.0
Croydon—Ruskin House—Mrs. Rackham 8.0
Gateshead—1, Cuthbert Street, Bensham—Mr. J. Haddon, B.Sc., on "Modern Views on Education"—Quartette Party 7.30
Guildford—Stoughton Schools—Mrs. Cooper on "Women's Suffrage from the Working Women's Point of View"—Chair, Miss N. Baker 8.0
Hyde—Market Place—Dinner Hour Meeting Speaker, Mrs. Annot Robinson 1.5-1.25
Nottingham—Small Lecture Hall, Mechanics' Institute—Miss G. Cooke on "Disabilities of Wives and Mothers"—Chair, Canon Holbrook 3.30
Winchester—Oddfellows' Hall, St. George's Street—Mrs. Valpy on "Canada: Some Impressions and a Moral" 5.30

FEBRUARY 26.

Berkhamstead—Town Hall—Speakers, Miss A. Maude Royden and the Rev. T. A. Lacy 8.0
Cranleigh—Winser's Tea Rooms—Dr. Alice Benham on "Infant Mortality"—Chair, the Rector 3.0
Ditching—Hostess, Mrs. Plunkett—Speaker, Mrs. Rackham 3.0
Hitchin—New Town Hall—Speakers, Miss Muriel Matters and Mrs. Heitland (of Cambridge)—Chair, Mrs. Wathen 7.30
Hyde—Ashton Bros. Mills, Newton Street—Dinner Hour Meeting—Speaker, Miss E. Wilkinson 1.5-1.25
Lincoln—Co-operative Hall—Speaker, Miss G. Cooke—Chair, the Lord Bishop of Lincoln 8.0

Manchester—Milton Hall, Deansgate—Grand Suffrage Market opened by Lady Aberconway—Chair, Councillor Margaret Ashton 2.0
Scarborough—St. Nicholas Hall—Mrs. Nott Bower on "Social Purity and the Women's Movement"—Chair, the Rev. C. Cooper, M.A. 8.0
Seaford—Town Hall—Mrs. Rackham 8.0
York—Drawing-room Meeting (by invitation on application at 10, Museum Street)—Hostess, Mrs. E. R. Cross—Mrs. Nott Bower on "Purity and Women's Suffrage" 3.0

FEBRUARY 27.

Barnsley—Peel Square—Speaker, Mr. Thatcher 7.0
Hyde—Slack Mills, Queen Street—Dinner Hour Meeting—Speaker, Mrs. Chew 1.5-1.25
Sale—Free Library, Tatton Road—Speaker, Miss Muriel Matters—Chair, Mrs. H. Storey 8.0

Scotland.

FEBRUARY 20.

Edinburgh—40, Shandwick Place—At Home—Miss Alice Lowe on "The Annual Council Meeting" 4.30
Glasgow—202, Hope Street—Hostess, Miss Munro Kerr—Miss D. K. Allen on "Temperance Work and Women's Suffrage" 4.0
Newhaven—Free Fishermen's Hall—Speaker, Miss Margaret Robertson—Chair, Mrs. Scott 8.0

FEBRUARY 23.

Edinburgh—40, Shandwick Place—Debating Society—Subject: "Why I am for Women's Suffrage." "Why I am against Women's Suffrage"—Chair, Mrs. Purves 8.0
Leith—Assembly Rooms—Speaker, Mrs. Chew 8.0
Musselburgh—Bridge End Assembly Rooms—Speaker, Mrs. Annot Robinson 8.0
Portobello—Bath Street Hall—Speaker, Miss Low 8.0

FEBRUARY 24.

Kilmarnock—Speaker, Mrs. Walter Crawford.
Leith—Smith's Rooms—Speaker, Mrs. Annot Robinson 8.0
Kinnaird's Hall—Speaker, Mrs. Chew 8.0
Leven—Masonic Hall—Mrs. Leathes on "The Child and the State"—Chair, Col. Sprot of Stravithle 8.0

FEBRUARY 25.

Kirkcaldy—Annual Meeting—Speakers Mrs. Leathes and Dr. Inglis 8.0
Leith—Smith's Rooms—Speaker, Mrs. Chew 8.0
Musselburgh—Open-air Meeting evening.
Portobello—Bath Street Hall—Speaker, Mrs. Annot Robinson 9.0
Stirling—Afternoon Meeting

FEBRUARY 26.

Leith—Wilson's Hall, Hope Street—Social Meeting—Mrs. Cargill-Knott on "Women and the Home" 8.0
St. Andrew's—Council Chambers—Mrs. Leathes on "Women should mind their own Business" 5.0

FEBRUARY 27.

Carnoustie—Speaker, Mrs. Leathes.
Edinburgh—Goold Hall, 5, St. Andrew's Square—Annual Meeting of the Edinburgh N.S.W.S.—Speaker, Mrs. Leathes 8.0
Glasgow—202, Hope Street—Miss A. Stuart Paterson on "Press Work"—Tea 4.0
Penrith—St. Andrew's Hall—Annual Business Meeting—Address by Miss S. Knight—Tea 4.30
By-election Meeting.
Note—During this week numerous meetings will be held in Leith, Musselburgh and Portobello in connection with the Leith Burghs By-election.

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Coming Events.

THE NEW CONSTITUTIONAL SOCIETY.—Mr. J. P. Green has kindly undertaken to arrange a performance of "Ghosts," in aid of the Constitutional Society. Miss Bessie Hatton will play the part of Mrs. Alving.

THE NEW CONSTITUTIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.—Tuesday, February 17th, at 3 p.m. New Constitutional Hall, Park Mansions Arcade. "My Night in a Common Lodging House," Mrs. Cavendish Bentinck, Mrs. Cecil Chapman.

THE SUFFRAGE CLUB, 3, York Street, St. James's, S.W.—Thursday, February 26th, at 8.30 p.m. Speaker, H. Rolleston Staples, Esq. Chair, Mrs. John Boyd-Carpenter. Subject, "Women and Children in Employment."

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Ten words, 9d. per insertion; every additional ten words, 6d. per insertion. All advertisements should be addressed to The Manager, The Common Cause Publishing Co., Limited, 2, Robert-st., Adelphi, W.C.

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